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VANCOUVER • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2008 metronews.ca

Celebrity Buzz

Mag pics never airbrushed: Winslet

pg 34

Sports pg 12

Luongo shutout leads way for Canucks

PRESIDENT OBAMA

JEFF HAYNES/REUTERS

U.S. President-elect Senator Barack Obama waves with his wife Michelle during his election night rally after being declared the winner yesterday of the 2008 U.S. Presidential Campaign in Chicago.

Democrat Barack Obama captured the White House yesterday after an extraordinary two-year campaign, defeating Republican John McCain to make history as the first black U.S. president.

Obama will be sworn in as the 44th U.S. president on Jan. 20, 2009 and will face a crush of immediate challenges, from tackling an economic crisis to ending the war in Iraq and trying to overhaul the U.S. health care system.

McCain saw his hopes for victory evaporate with losses in a string of key battleground states led by the big prizes of Ohio and Florida, the states that sent Democrats to defeat in the last two elections.

The win by Obama, son of a black father from Kenya and white mother from Kansas, marked a milestone in U.S. history. It came 45 years after the height of the civil rights movement led by Martin Luther King.

"It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, at this defining moment, change has come to America," Obama, 47, told 125,000 ecstatic supporters gathered in Chicago's Grant Park to celebrate.

> **"It's been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day ... change has come to America."**
> President-elect Barack Obama

"The road ahead will be long. Our climb will be steep. We may not get there in one year or even one term, but America — I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there," he said.

Obama, a first-term Illinois senator, led sweeping Democratic victories that expanded the party's majorities in both chambers of Congress and marked an emphatic rejection of President George W. Bush's eight years of leadership.

News of Obama's win set off celebrations by supporters around the country, from Times Square in New York to Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, King's home church.

Obama has promised to restore U.S. leadership in the world by working closely with foreign allies, and has pledged a tax cut for low- and middle-class workers while raising taxes on those making more than $250,000 a year.

The vice-presidency goes to Obama's running mate, Sen. Joe Biden. REUTERS

Election USA

For more coverage on the American presidential election, check out metronews.ca/uselection

McCain calls for united support

DECISION Republican John McCain congratulated Democrat Barack Obama for winning the U.S. presidency yestterday, saying "the American people have spoken" and promising to help his former rival address the country's many challenges.

McCain addressed his supporters in an emotional speech at a Phoenix hotel after telephoning Obama to concede the election. Obama later said McCain's call had been "extraordinarily gracious."

"Senator Obama has achieved a great thing for himself and for his country. I applaud him for it," said McCain.

The 72-year-old Arizona senator urged all Americans — including his supporters — to rally behind Obama. REUTERS

RICK WILKING / REUTERS

John McCain stands with his wife Cindy as he delivers his concession speech in Phoenix, Ariz. last night.

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Sutherland to judge Borsos Award
Donald Sutherland will be one of several judges to select the winner of the Borsos Award for Best New Canadian Feature Film, the Whistler Film Festival announced yesterday. The award will be presented Dec. 7. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Santa visits early

Santa Claus made an early visit to Vancouver yesterday, helping put up posters on Georgia Street for the 5th annual Rogers Santa Claus Parade Dec. 7. There will also be a Christmas Square in front of the Vancouver Art Gallery with booths, carol books, a stage and canned goods drive. SOURCE: NEWS1130.COM

Democrats celebrate

JEFF HODSON
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Election USA

In a scene reminiscent of a sports bar during the NHL playoffs, hundreds of excited U.S. Democrats crowded into the Yaletown Brew Pub last night to cheer Barack Obama to victory in last night's U.S. federal election.

"It has got to be one of the most momentous occasion in U.S. history," said Sean Lauer, co-chair of Democrats Abroad in Vancouver.

Throughout the pub, cheers roared out anytime CNN projected a state for Obama. Ovations also went up when Obama was shown leading in key battleground states like Florida.

A brewpub staffer said it was one of the few times the TVs weren't tuned to the Vancouver Canucks game.

Barb Clausen, who voted for the first time in a U.S. election since she emigrated from California in 1968, said the atmosphere in the pub reminded her of people watching a sporting event — "a very serious sport."

"It's historic," Clausen said. "This could change the U.S. and the world.

"Obama represents a real shift in thinking and policy that could really change how the United States operates as a country and therefore how the world operates around it."

Lauer said Americans living in Vancouver have been volunteering their time over the past nine months, helping people register to vote and, more recently, calling people in battleground states.

"What's happening in Vancouver is a microcosm of what is happening everywhere," Lauer said. "I don't think you can minimize that. People are cynical and apathetic about politics. It's changing, and if Obama wins, it has the potential of something really great."

RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Barack Obama supporters at the Yaletown Brew Pub react to a CNN projection calling the Democratic Presidential nominee the winner of New York State.

Dosanjh holds seat

JEFF HODSON
jeff.hodson@metronews.ca

RECOUNT Former premier Ujjal Dosanjh recaptured what many thought was the safest federal Liberal seat in B.C. with a mere 20 votes over Tory Wai Young, a second judicial recount found yesterday.

The result, 21 days after the Oct. 14 federal election, is the longest recount in Canadian history.

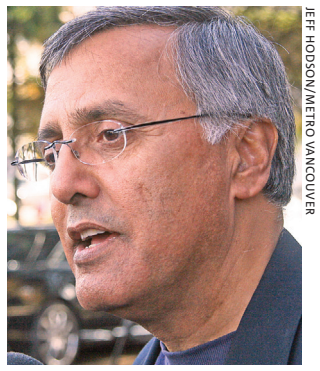
"I obviously didn't think it would be this close," said Dosanjh outside an Elections Canada office on Southwest Marine Drive in Vancouver.

"We felt — as everybody else felt in the province — that we had the safest seat in the province for the Liberals."

The 20-vote victory is a far cry from the 9,000-vote margin that Dosanjh beat Conservative Tarlok Sablok in 2006.

"I obviously didn't think it would be this close." Ujjal Dosanjh

Dosanjh blamed the narrow victory on Liberal Leader Stephane Dion, who he said failed to connect with Canadians and scared people with his proposed Green Shift carbon tax.


JEFF HODSON/METRO VANCOUVER

Liberal MP Ujjal Dosanjh speaks with reporters outside an Elections Canada office in South Vancouver after a second judicial recount confirmed his victory by 20 votes.

"Some people stayed home because they thought I was safe. Others were scared enough to go vote for the Conservatives."

Young saw her margin of defeat shrink from 779 votes on election night to 33 votes and then to 22 after the first judicial recount. Young said she was proud she had closed the 9,000-vote gap.

"Justice has been done today, democracy has been upheld because every vote has been counted," said Young.

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What's online today.

U.S. Election Coverage

- Thousands gather at Obama rally in Chicago; a movie star encounters problems at the polls; why one Democrat thinks Obama will be his party's Bush; final results and more at metronews.ca/uselection.

RCMP to be subpoenaed for Dzienkanski inquiry

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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INQUIRY The RCMP officers involved in the Tasering incident of Polish immigrant Robert Dziekanski will be subpoenaed to appear at the inquiry into his death, the hearing's judge announced yesterday.

Justice Thomas Braidwood said he won't allow any more delays into the start of the inquiry's second phase — which has been pushed back twice to Jan. 19 — regardless of whether the Crown has decided to charge the officers.

"Although we are still hoping that the Crown's decision will be made soon, the commission's lawyers are in the process of preparing subpoenas for the officers involved and for other possible witnesses," said Braidwood.

"The commission's mandate is to provide Mr. Dziekanski's family and the public with a complete record of the circumstances of his death. We need to get on with that task."

In September, the RCMP said it wasn't in a position to participate in the inquiry or provide access to its files until Crown counsel had made a decision on charges.

Braidwood said it's essential the RCMP have a full opportunity to explain what happened at YVR in October 2007.

The first phase of the inquiry looked at the use of Tasers by police, while the second phase looks at the circumstances surrounding Dziekanski's death.

Report extension?

- Braidwood has also requested an extension of the deadline for his report on the first phase.
- The report was due on Nov. 30.

News in brief

SURREY A 60-year-old woman is dead after being hit by a jeep while crossing a street in Surrey, news1130.com reports. Police said the victim was jaywalking. The driver tried to perform CPR, but couldn't revive her.

BURNABY A man has been arrested after breaking into a Burnaby house while the homeowner was inside. Steven John Gray, 44, is charged with breaking into three homes.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ferry fares cut

Travelling to the Island just got a little cheaper. Yesterday B.C. Ferries rolled back its fuel surcharge by 50 per cent. The price drop affects all the major routes between the Mainland and Vancouver Island, and the Gulf Islands. **NEWS1130.COM**

Campaign **Sending a message to teens**

RAFE ARNOTT/FOR METRO VANCOUVER

A campaign called Stay Out is placing fake body bags — like this one outside the Vancouver Public Library yesterday — throughout Metro Vancouver. It is part of an effort to discourage youths from joining gangs.

Minorities wanted for health registry

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

If MLA Sindi Hawkins had not received a bone marrow transplant from someone of South Asian descent — like herself — she might not have survived her battle with cancer.

The former minister of health planning, who received a transplant from her sister, said the likelihood of finding a match is greater within an individual's ethnic group, but only 17 per cent of registered donors are ethnic minorities.

To improve those numbers OneMatch stem cell and marrow network, in conjunction with immigrant support organization SUCCESS, yesterday began to offer services in Chinese.

"Today is about saving lives. We need to educate our population, especially our ethnic population," said Hawkins.

"Too many people die waiting on the list because we don't have those populations on the registry."

KRISTEN THOMPSON/METRO VANCOUVER

MLA Sindi Hawkins at SUCCESS head office yesterday.

Ryan Chiu, a 29-year-old Vancouver Community College graduate, was diagnosed with leukemia in 2006 and found a stem cell donor through OneMatch.

"Without the generosity of this stranger I wouldn't be here today, or I'd be fighting for my life," he said. "I wouldn't be married to my wife."

Selina Yiu, 28, from Richmond, was a donor through OneMatch in 2003.

"It's so important for minorities like me to be on the registry," she said. "If I was given the call tomorrow I'd be there in a heartbeat."

Experts downplay Autism study

CHILDREN A University of B.C. professor is downplaying a U.S. study released yesterday that found children in the rainy Pacific Northwest are more likely to have autism.

The Cornell University study found a connection between autism rates against precipitation levels in California, Oregon, and Washington between 1987 to 2001.

Pat Mirenda, a UBC professor and leading autism researcher, said the results are interesting from a scientific perspective, but there is a danger in terms of public perception. She worries parents who read it will blame themselves for their child's autism.

"Don't start moving to the desert," she warns. "Clearly we know there are other factors other than genetics, but we don't know yet what those are."

It also stated that rain or snow could carry chemicals from the atmosphere.

MONICA MARTINEZ/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

BOARD Vision Vancouver Park Board candidates announced yesterday plans to implement the Skateboard Strategy originally introduced by former mayor Larry Campbell. Sarah Blyth joined by Aaron Jasper and Raj Hundal said they would like to increase the number of skateparks in Vancouver, provide an indoor skating facility, and integrate skateboarding at community centres. **MONICA MARTINEZ/ FOR METRO VANCOUVER**

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Leaders want inquiries into shootings of First Nations people

Aboriginal leaders in Saskatchewan are calling for a public inquiry into the deaths of First Nations people who have been shot by police. The call comes in the wake of last week's coroner's inquest into the 2006 death of Delbert Pelletier, which some family members said left questions unanswered. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada

Manley out of leadership race

Former deputy prime minister John Manley, left, will not run in the upcoming Liberal leadership race, he said in a statement yesterday. Last week, Manley openly considered tossing his hat into the ring, but expressed uncertainty about entering what would be his second leadership contest. In a letter sent to colleagues and supporters, Manley said he "consulted broadly" with family and friends and was "greatly moved" by the offers of support and financial help. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Olympic housing worries

Study shows previous hosts have seen negative impact on housing

MARIA COOTAUCO
for Metro Vancouver

A study of seven different Olympic cities around the world found that local residents were the biggest losers when it came to the impact of the games on housing.

"The local people living in a city shouldn't be adversely affected by a sporting event that lasts for two weeks," said Clair Mahon, a principal author of the 2007 report entitled Fair Play for Housing Rights: Mega-Events, Olympic Games and Housing Events.

According to Jenny Kwan, NDP MLA for Vancouver-Mt. Pleasant, since the Olympics were announced, more than 1,200 single-room occupancy units have been lost.

RAFE ARNOTT/AMETRO VANCOUVER

Claire Mahon, an international housing-rights activist, speaks outside the Vancouver Art Gallery yesterday.

"This is housing that's been lost to low-income populations and it's had a direct impact on the increase in homelessness that we've seen since the games were awarded to Vancouver," said Laura Track, a lawyer with Pivot Legal Society.

Activist Am Johal added that a funded watchdog group was promised but not set up, as was a civil liberties round table that hasn't come to fruition.

"Many other cities and many other people are watching what happens in Vancouver and hoping this can continue to be an example for the rest of the world in terms of how you organize an Olympic games," Mahon said. "So the idea is to say, 'Let's continue to make it better.'"

Ontario blames MPs for fiscal woes

ECONOMY Stung by Ontario's plunge into "have-not" status, the provincial Liberal government is blaming MPs from all parties for not doing enough to help Canada's one-time economic titan.

One day after the ignominious revelation that Ontario is now among Canada's poor provinces qualifying for $347 million in federal equalization handouts for the first time, Finance Minister Dwight Duncan was in fighting form.

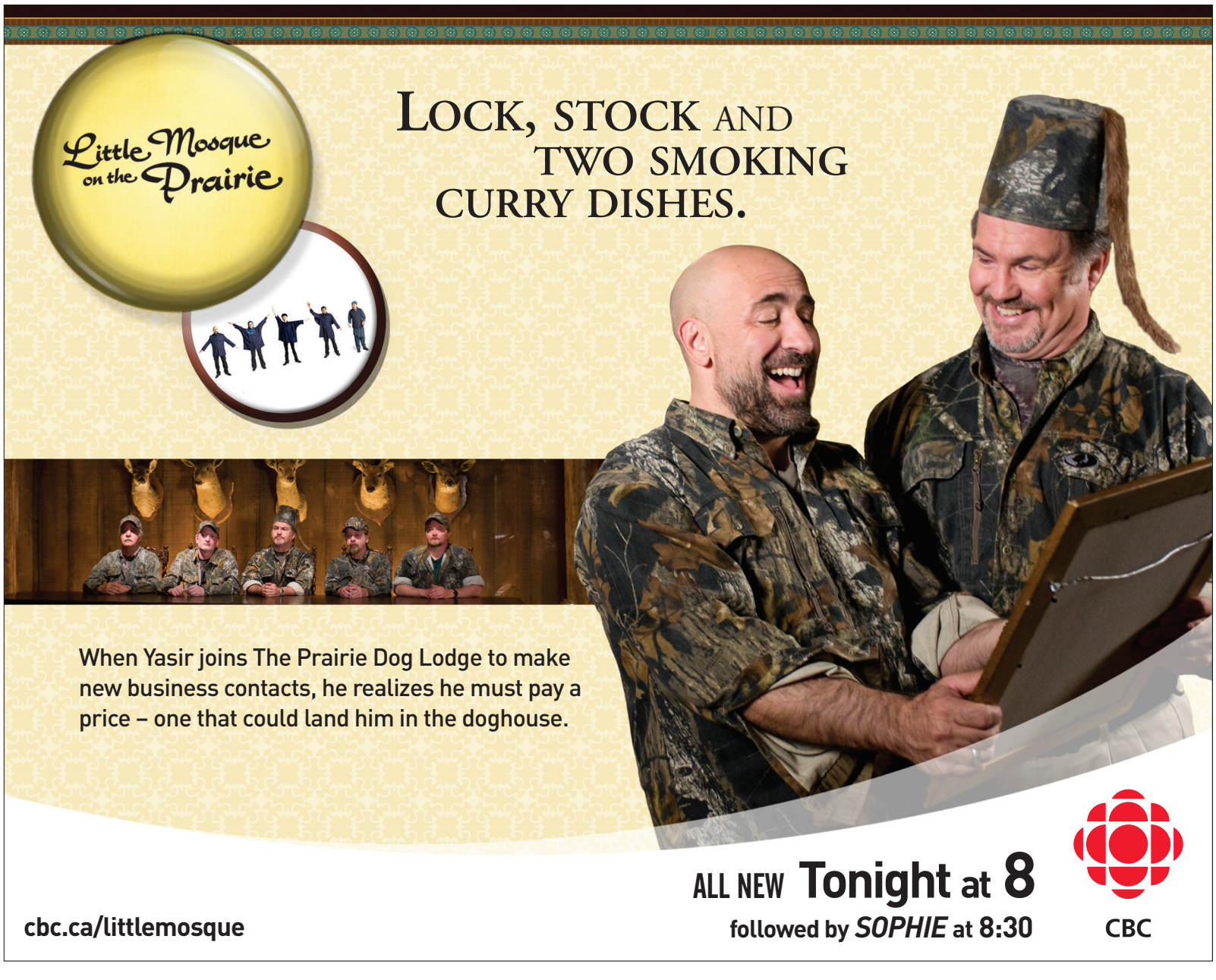
"We have 106 federal members, we need to have them start standing up for Ontario," Duncan complained yesterday. "We need a federal partner and we're not seeing that and we need people to start standing up for Ontario," he said, adding the Conservatives in Ottawa are "completely clued out."

"I see a federal Parliament that's ignoring Ontario." Dwight Duncan

Duncan, who revealed a fortnight ago that Ontario is running a $500 million budget deficit, tried to minimize the humiliation of the country's long-time economic engine receiving a share of the $14.2 billion equalization pool next year.

"I see a federal Parliament that's ignoring Ontario. I see a federal Parliament that has not addressed the real scenario here in Ontario. I see a federal government that does not get the most important industry."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



News in brief

SYRINGES Another health district in Saskatchewan says it's been reusing medical syringes. The Sun Country Health Region said yesterday it "discovered syringes were being re-used occasionally in the operating room at Weyburn General Hospital."

CUSTODY An Ottawa man considered a "high-risk" sexual offender by police was taken back into custody over the weekend. Leonard Charles Watts is charged with two counts of breach of recognizance, police said yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Falling concrete causes road shutdown in Montreal
Rush-hour traffic was snarled in east-end Montreal yesterday afternoon after transport officials shut down a major street where a large chunk of concrete landed after it fell off an overpass. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Twitchell friends say allegations are false

VICTORIA HANDYSIDES
Metro Canada

Friends of accused killer Mark Twitchell are insistent that the allegations against him are false, and that there's no way that a man in the prime of his life could be capable of a brutal murder.

Twitchell is a 29-year-old indie filmmaker from St. Albert, who was recently married, and has an infant daughter.

Police allege that the young man murdered 38-year-old Johnny Altinger, of Maple Ridge, B.C., acting out a scene from a freshly-inked script he'd written for a film dubbed "House of Cards."

The plot: A man is lured from an Internet dating site to a garage, tied to a chair, and chopped to pieces.

BEN LEMPHERS/METRO EDMONTON
Police tape guards a garage in Mill Woods where police allege the murder of Johnny Altinger took place.

"Mark is a very non-violent person, with no temper to speak of, and an aversion to conflict, yelling, or physical violence," said friend and colleague Mike Young. "In all the long hours we've put in together, and the many years we've spent together, there has never been a hint, a glimpse, even the slightest possibility, that Mark has it in him to even throw a punch, let alone kill a human being."

Young's sentiments are echoed by scores of Twitchell's friends and acquaintances, all of whom are shocked at his arrest. A belief runs among the widespread group that he's been caught in a case of mistaken identity.

"He is at a great point in his life, one which someone would have to be an absolute idiot to screw up with an act like this," Young said.

"When I heard it, I didn't really believe it, and I still don't," said friend Galen Pendleton.

Local criminologist Bill Pitt feels the act may have been videotaped, and that its recovery would hold the key to a murder conviction.

Altinger's body has not been found, but police believe there is enough forensic evidence for a conviction.

Twitchell makes his first court appearance today. None of the allegations have been proven in court.

Religious order faces a $400,000 tax bill

PROPERTY Even godliness is no protection from a potentially huge property tax hike.

The Sisters of St. Joseph of the diocese of London, Ont., thought they were doing their part to reduce their carbon footprint when they moved into a state-of-the-art "green" home. But they could soon face an annual property tax bill as high as $400,000 on their smaller, energy-efficient building, says New Democratic Party Ontario MPP Michael Prue.

The sisters were reassessed based on an existing provincial law that says places of public worship are exempt from property tax, but where a religious order prays and lives a life of religious devotion is not, Prue told the Legislature yesterday.

"Will this government change the law so that properties where religious orders practise their religious life are treated the same for property tax purposes as they were in the past?" Prue asked Finance Minister Dwight Duncan, referring to the provincial Assessment Act.

Prue worries money the sisters use to fight poverty and carry out their other charitable endeavours might have to be used to pay a bigger property tax bill. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

News in brief

REMEMBERANCE Over seven nights starting yesterday, 68,000 Canadians killed in the First World War were to "walk across the country" in a special vigil that ends Remembrance Day.

DRUGS Border guards seized $11 million worth of heroin hidden in a shipment of cotton towels in the Port of Halifax.

SECURITY Environment Canada has admitted someone in the department broke the government's security policy in allowing a sensitive document to be left on the side of an Ottawa street, CBC News has learned.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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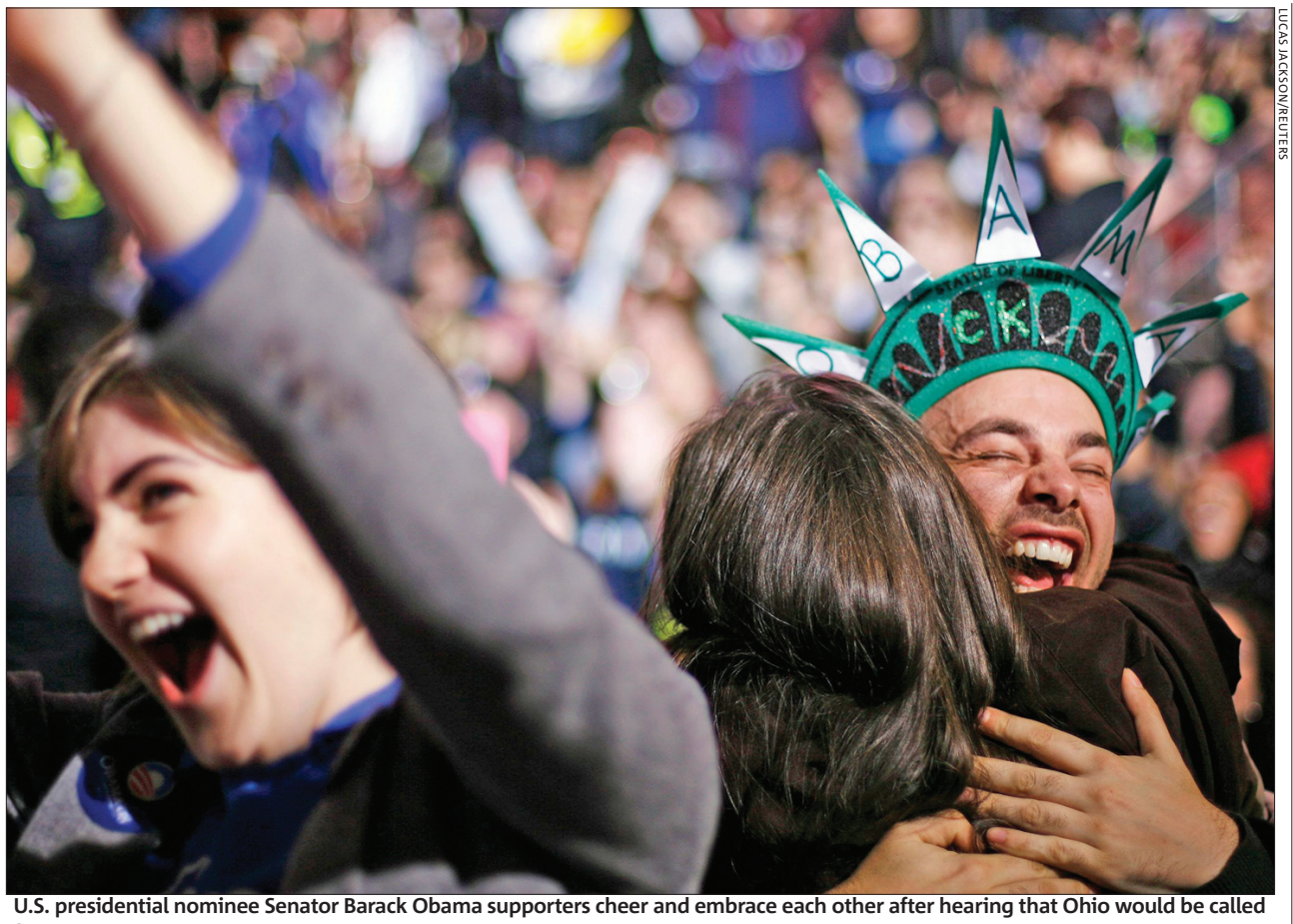
Bush: Way to go, Bar-ry!

President George W. Bush called Democrat Barack Obama to congratulate him on winning the U.S. presidential election, the White House said, adding that Bush invited him and his family to visit to the White House soon. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Election USA

Palin cleared

Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin was cleared of wrongdoing in an abuse-of-power investigation into the firing of the state's public safety commissioner. REUTERS



LUCAS JACKSON/REUTERS

U.S. presidential nominee Senator Barack Obama supporters cheer and embrace each other after hearing that Ohio would be called for Obama while watching 2008 election results in Times Square in New York yesterday.

Obama victory signals a shift in U.S. race relations

For Americans burdened by a sense of history, something once unthinkable has happened. The United States has elected a black president.

What has changed in terms of race to enable Democratic candidate Barack Obama's defeat of Republican John McCain and what might change as a result?

Civil rights leader Jesse Jackson said his satisfaction at Obama's success was conditioned by a sense of history. Jackson witnessed the assassination of Martin Luther King in 1968 and twice ran for president in the 1980s.

"His (Obama) winning means America's getting better. We are more mature," Jackson said.

"We are less anxious around each other."

Jackson put the election in the context of the movement to end racial segregation in the South in the 1950s and 1960s and and win voting rights for blacks in the teeth of violent opposition.

"I know so many people white, black and Jewish who marched and were martyred. I wish that those who paid the supreme sacrifice could see the results of their labours," he said.

One surprise apparent in the earliest primaries in which parties chose their nominees was the support Obama attracted among whites voters.

At the same time, black voters were integral to Obama's success, swinging a number of states in his favour. And Obama went out of his way to embrace black voters and their concerns, most notably in a high-profile speech on race in March.

Those factors deal a blow to black skepticism about their role in politics and a lingering sense of disenfranchisement.

"The first thing Obama's presidency means for black people is, at least momentarily, a sense of full citizenship," said Melissa Harris-Lacewell, a political science professor at Princeton University.

> **"(Obama) winning means America's getting better."**
> Jesse Jackson

Just as the election could change the way blacks perceive politics and their place in U.S. society, it could also alter the way they are perceived, particularly if Obama's administration gains a reputation for competence.

Conservative leader Newt Gingrich said Obama's rise reflected changes that have already taken place.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and her predecessor Colin Powell proved that blacks could deal at the highest levels in government, he said.

"It begins to be accepted that young men and women of color who can certainly dream the biggest dreams," Gingrich said.

"America has moved beyond any narrowly defined sense of racism," said the former Speaker of the House in an interview.

Stubborn facts, however, point towards persistent inequality that Obama may struggle to tackle given the downturn facing the U.S. economy.

Black Americans make up around 13 percent of the population, but earn less money and are less healthy than the general population.

Reports show blacks are also more likely to be unemployed, less likely to own property and more likely to be convicted and jailed for crimes.

REUTERS

Black senators

Obama is only America's fifth black senator. Other black senators include:

- Hiram Revels, elected in 1870 to the U.S. Senate as a Republican from Mississippi, where there was a black majority after the Civil War. Served until 1871.
- Blanche Bruce -- elected in 1875 as a Republican from Mississippi. Served until 1881
- Edward Brooke -- A Massachusetts Republican, served between 1967 and 1979.
- Carol Moseley Braun -- An Illinois Democratic senator between 1993 and 1999.

Challenges abroad for Obama already

ANALYSIS Newly elected U.S. president Barack Obama will face a daunting array of foreign-policy challenges, from wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and the global financial crisis to the need to shore up the country's frayed international image.

While taxes, health care and the economy all played a role in the campaign before yesterday's vote, national security issues such as the Iranian nuclear standoff and Middle East peace are likely to remain near the top of the agenda when Obama takes office from President George W. Bush on Jan 20.

"The mantra for the next administration has to be, 'Be careful what you wish for because you just might get it,'" said James Lindsay, who was a foreign policy aide to former president Bill Clinton and is now with the University of Texas at Austin.

"The new president-elect is going to have a full foreign-policy inbox and decisions to make with enormous consequences for American security," added Lindsay.

> **"(Obama) is going to have a full foreign-policy inbox."**
> James Lindsay

Foreign policy advisers say Obama, a Democrat who will become the first black U.S. president, has an understanding of world affairs rooted in a childhood spent partly in Indonesia and a quest to learn about his father's Kenyan heritage.

The Illinois senator, 47, will face pressing concerns even before he takes over from Bush, a Republican.

On Nov. 15, Bush will convene a summit in Washington to look at the global economic crisis. While Obama is unlikely to attend the meeting himself, it could give his economic team the chance to meet some of the visiting foreign officials on the sidelines of the conference.

The Obama administration will also inherit the Iraq and Afghan wars and an intensifying effort to pursue al-Qaida militants on Pakistan's border with Afghanistan. REUTERS

News in brief

LOOKING AHEAD French President Nicolas Sarkozy said yesterday that Barack Obama's election as president shows the American people have "expressed with force their faith in progress." REUTERS

WELCOME China welcomed Barack Obama as a youthful president-elect with energy and an ethnic heritage that could help America reach out to the rest of the world. REUTERS

Phoenix **On the losing end**

MIKE BLAKE/REUTERS

U.S. Republican presidential nominee Senator John McCain speaks to the crowd with Gov. Sarah Palin during election night in Phoenix yesterday. He conceded defeat to Obama.

Obama fever sweeps Kenya
Kenyans in Barack Obama's ancestral homeland prayed for victory yesterday and relatives prepared to roast a bull in celebration of his win. REUTERS

Election USA

Obama aims for regulation

Greenspan-era rules of finance on their way out

U.S. President-elect Barack Obama can rewrite the Greenspan-era rules of finance, backed by a solid Democratic majority in Congress and an American public furious about the credit crisis.

Exit polls showed the economy was the dominant factor in Obama's decisive victory over Republican John McCain yesterday, giving the new president a clear mandate to pursue the more populist approach to capitalism that he promoted throughout his campaign.

"At a moment like this, we can't afford four more years of spending increases, poorly designed tax cuts or the complete lack of regulatory oversight that even former Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan now believes was a mistake," Obama wrote in a Wall Street Journal editorial this week.

For Wall Street — and other finance capitals that followed New York's lead — that probably means a flurry of laws aimed at protecting homeowners and borrowers while tightening restrictions on banks and the investments they sell.

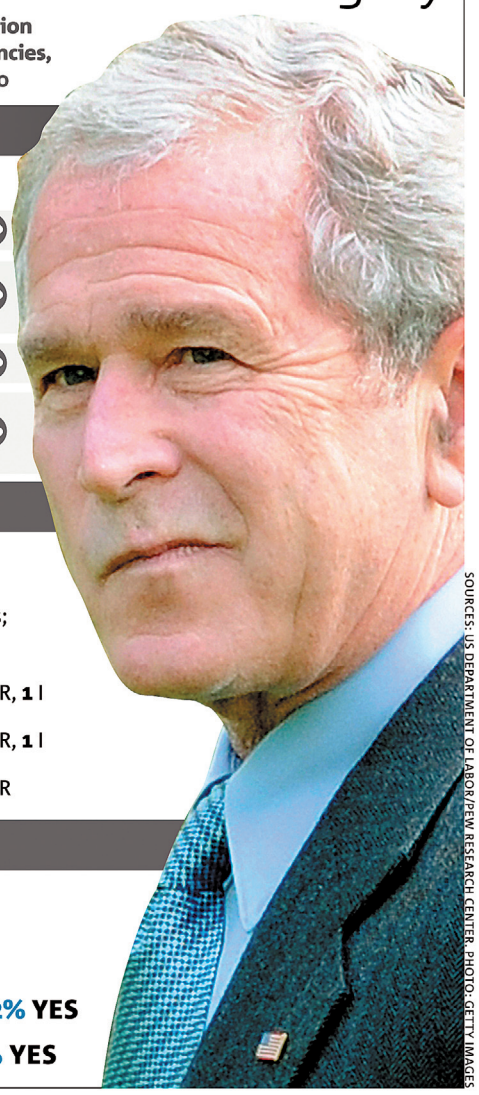
"At a moment like this, we can't afford four more years of spending increases, poorly designed tax cuts or the complete lack of regulatory oversight."
Barack Obama

Obama has also proposed an economic stimulus plan that would include money for infrastructure, and he favours reforming the bankruptcy code to help homeowners and make it easier to restructure troubled mortgages.

Greenspan, a firm believer in free markets, has been blamed for allowing financial firms to outgrow government oversight. As losses piled up around the world in late October, Greenspan acknowledged that he was "partially" wrong to resist regulation of some securities. REUTERS

Eight years later: The Bush administration's legacy

As the U.S. prepares to bid farewell to George W Bush, his eight-year administration has brought an increased budget deficit, the dollar far lower against other currencies, his approval ratings plummeting and support for the Iraq war ebbing away. METRO



THE ECONOMY

	2000	2008
Unemployment	4 percent (average)	5.4 percent (average) ↑
Federal budget deficit	SURPLUS of $230 billion	DEFICIT of $455 billion (as of October 15) ↑
Inflation	3.38% (average)	5% (average) ↑
Currency rate	Jan. 20, 2000: (first day of Bush presidency): $1 = 0.65 (U.K. Sterling), 1.01 (Euro)	Oct. 31, 2008: $1 = 0.62 (U.K. Sterling), 0.79 (Euro) ↓

INTERIOR POLICY

Bush approval ratings

- Highest: Sept. 21-25, 2001: **86%**
- Lowest: Oct. 23-26, 2008: **22%**

Seats in Congress

2001: Senate: **50** Democrats, **50** Republicans; House: **212** D, **221** R, **2** Independents

2003: Senate: **49** D, **51** R; House: **204** D, **229** R, **1** I

2005: Senate: **45** D, **55** R; House: **202** D, **232** R, **1** I

2007: Senate: **51** D, **49** R; House: **233** D, **202** R

FOREIGN POLICY

Iraq War:

Should the U.S. have invaded Iraq?
March 2003: 72% say YES, 22% say NO
Feb. 2008: 38% say YES, 54% say NO

Should U.S. withdraw troops?
March 2003: 64% NO, 32% YES
Feb. 2008: 47% NO, 49% YES

SOURCES: US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR/PEW RESEARCH CENTER. PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

News in brief

DEFEAT With election fraud charges hanging over his head, Puerto Rico Gov. Anibal Acevedo Vila was beaten in his re-election bid yesterday. The 46-old-governor from the Popular Democratic Party lost the leadership of the U.S. Caribbean territory to Luis Fortuno.

INDONESIA The election victory of Barack Obama, who spent part of his childhood in Indonesia, was greeted with cheers and applause by about 200 people, including former classmates who had gathered in Jakarta for the event. REUTERS

High stakes draw homeless to the polls

Frederick Williams, a Marine Corps veteran scraping by on unemployment benefits, describes his living situation as "not homeless but close to it" and says he never cared enough to vote — until yesterday.

Williams said he voted for Barack Obama, whose message of hope and bid to become the first black president of the United States stirred him like no other politician.

"This is history in the making. I wanted to be part of that ... For once in my lifetime ... someone (Obama) really cares about the small people."
Frederick Williams

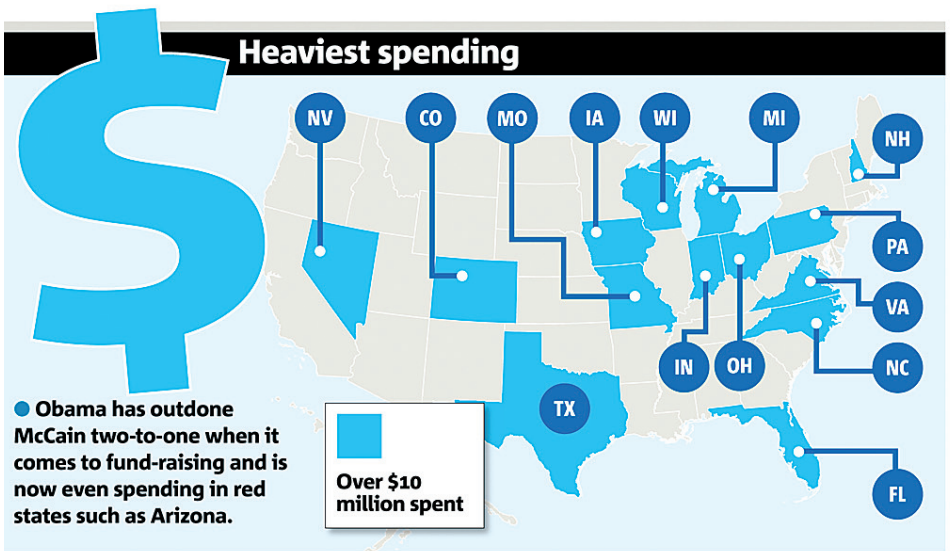
"This is history in the making. I wanted to be part of that," said Williams, who lives in a transient hotel near the polling station at the Los Angeles Mission. "For once in my lifetime … someone really cares about the small people out there."

Williams was one of hundreds of people — many first-time voters lacking permanent dwellings — who cast ballots this year on L.A.'s Skid Row, a 50-block downtown area believed to harbour the highest concentration of homeless in the United States.

Spokesman Orlando Ward for Midnight Mission said the numbers that turned out yesterday were unprecedented.

By late morning, more than 300 voters, many of them homeless, had filed through the polling station at Midnight Mission, at least 10 times more than showed up all day during the last presidential election, Ward said. REUTERS

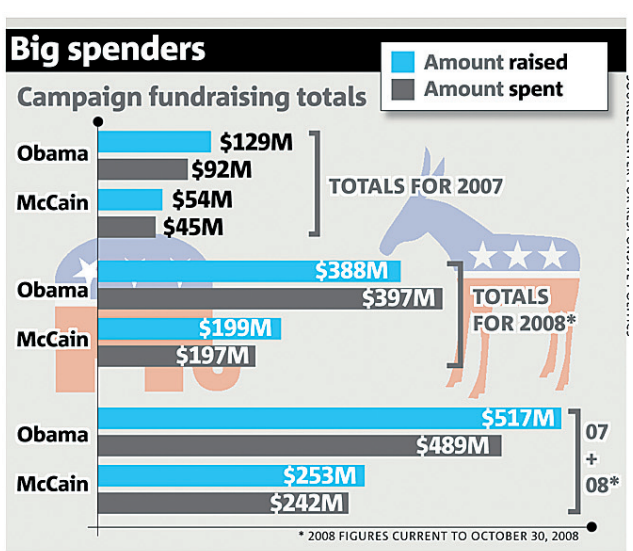
Obama doubled McCain's totals in fundraising for election



Obama has outdone McCain two-to-one when it comes to fund-raising and is now even spending in red states such as Arizona.

NEW YORK. We new this was going to be an expensive election when Federal Election Commission officials argued that for any candidate to be taken seriously in the 2008 election, he or she would have to have raised at least $100 million by the end of 2007.

Now, after candidates, particularly on the Democratic side, have continuously broken fundraising records, the combined amount raised and spent has broken the $1 billion mark. Here's a look at who got what and where it went. METRO



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Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. **We reserve the right to edit letters.**

Comment & Views

Comment

Maybe it's time to pull plug on Tasers

TheWestView

Paul Sullivan

Journalist & media consultant

A guy in Calgary died Monday after being Tasered by police during a break-in.

A few days before that, a man in Edmonton died after police subdued him with a Taser while he was allegedly wreaking havoc at a pawn shop.

In Canada more than 20 people have died after being Tasered since use began in 1999; yet officials resist calls for a moratorium while we study this, uh, shocking trend. The latest assurance was issued by Alberta's solicitor general Fred Lindsay after the Edmonton death … two days before the Calgary death.

"I believe the Taser is a tool that's been used very effectively and in a lot of cases has prevented death," said Lindsay. Is it just me, or do his words ring hollow, bookended by Taser-related fatalities three days apart?

And lest we forget, it was just over a year ago when the RCMP set off a Taser-related international incident. Polish traveller Robert Dziekanski, freaking out after spending 10 hours trapped in the Vancouver airport trying to find his mother was Tasered after he began throwing the furniture around. He died too. The Polish government summoned the Canadian ambassador looking for answers. Like the rest of us, Poland is still waiting.

"If Alberta's solicitor general thinks Tasers are safe, he should step up and take a shot or two in order to prove his thesis."

Amnesty International recommends a time out while we study these things further. By its count, more than 290 people have died in North America after being Tasered. And it's not even considered a weapon in the USA; you can Taser people who are annoying. By that criterion, I'd deploy mine 50-100 times a day.

While Tasers are a restricted weapon in Canada, police argue that they have saved 4,000 lives since they began using them in 1999. And as targets of the Taser are usually dangerous individuals in the middle of a psychotic episode or drug-induced frenzy, they're not so easy to subdue — yet they obviously have to be subdued. Public safety depends on it … I think.

Okay, but watch the video of the Dziekanski incident. You're left with the uneasy feeling that the four officers surrounding the agitated man really didn't need to Taser him repeatedly — as many as four times, according to witnesses. An alternative might have been to find a Polish-speaking translator to try and calm the man down. There remains a lingering suspicion that the officers applied the "annoying" criterion, and while the rules of engagement are still not clear, "annoying" just isn't good enough.

I'll leave you with this electrifying proposal: If Alberta's solicitor general thinks Tasers are safe, he should step up and take a shot or two in order to prove his thesis. Failing that, he should show some leadership and pull the plug before someone else dies while being "subdued."

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist, owner of Sullivan Media consulting, and editor-in-chief of Orato.com, the citizen news website.

Election USA

Word on the street: What do you think of Barack Obama as president?

Shahriar Ahmad
age 26, Vancouver

A: Considering the options, I'm very, very pleased. U.S. foreign policy is a very difficult thing to reverse.

Kelly McCague
Vancouver

A: That is a bright light in North America … (with Obama) I think people will look at it as a fresh start and then they can start rebuilding their reputation around the world.

Fatima Casadei
age 27, Vancouver

A: I think it's about time! I think it's time for a change and it needs to happen and I hope that it does.

Mark Coleman
age 38, Toronto

A: Obama would make a better president. In light of what's going on in Afghanistan and Iraq, I think Barack is more in line with current society's standards and changes.

Michelle Lowe
age 34, Toronto

A: Obama's policies just seem more socially acceptable. I don't like McCain. He would be too conservative.

Ryan Steeles
age 22, Ottawa

A: It's going to be hard to live up to the hype. Even though he's a great candidate and a great person. I don't think that he's going to live up to the expectations.

Maryam Mumayiz
age 19, Halifax

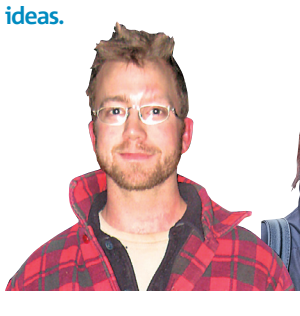
A: I absolutely love Barack Obama as president. I think he's the best hope for America. I just don't believe in anything McCain.

Danielle Hrdlicka
age 21, Edmonton

A: He will get the States in more debt than what it currently is in now.

Burke MacLean
age 32, Edmonton

A: Yes, in some aspects Obama will make a good leader. He will change the party, and he's younger and has new and different ideas.



Sherilyn Sutton
age 26, Calgary

A: I think it's awesome because the republicans have spent the last eight years destroying America.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

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1 - 525 Seymour St.
150 - 625 Howe St.
105 - 950 West Broadway
1707 Robson St.
1092 Kingsway
10 - 3490 Kingsway

Aldergrove
310 - 26310 Fraser Hwy.

Abbotsford
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2 - 32915 South Fraser Way
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401 - 2140 Sumas Way

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Brentwood Mall
Crystal Square
Lougheed Mall
Metrotown/Metropolis
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4711 Kingsway
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204B - 3430 Brighton Ave.

Chilliwack
Cottonwood Mall
103 - 45300 Luckakuck Way
11 - 45905 Yale Rd.
7544B Vedder Rd.

Cloverdale
201 - 17725 64th Ave.

Coquitlam
Coquitlam Centre
101 - 3278 Westwood St.
5 - 3000 Lougheed Hwy.
2700B Barnet Hwy.
22 - 2988 Glen Dr.
2 - 901 Lougheed Hwy.

New Westminster
Royal City Centre

Delta
Scottsdale Mall
7235 120th St.
1517 56th St.

Langley
Walnut Grove Town Centre
Willowbrook Shopping Centre
3 - 19638 Fraser Hwy.
103 - 19700 Langley Bypass
C104 - 20159 88th Ave.
19971 96th Ave.
C7 - 20202 66th Ave.

Maple Ridge
22661 Lougheed Hwy.

Mission
100 - 32670 Lougheed Hwy.
318 - 32555 London Ave.

North Vancouver
Capilano Mall
127 - 1199 Lynn Valley Rd.
1295 Marine Dr.
1748 Lonsdale Ave.
1392 Main St.

Port Moody
202 Newport Dr.

Pitt Meadows
735 - 19800 Lougheed Hwy.

Richmond
Aberdeen Centre
Admiralty Centre Mall
Ironwood Mall
Lansdowne Mall
Parker Place
Richmond Centre
115 - 12571 Bridgeport Rd.

Surrey
Central City Shopping Centre
Guildford Town Centre
201 - 13734 104th Ave.
135 - 12477 88th Ave.
2404 King George Hwy.
1675 128th St.
108 - 7380 King George Hwy.
403 - 15940 Fraser Hwy.
10310A 152nd St.

West Vancouver
Park Royal Shopping Centre
North/South

White Rock
Semiahmoo Shopping Centre
10 - 3189 King George Hwy.

OKANAGAN/NORTHERN BC

Aberdeen Mall (Kamloops)
Northills Centre (Kamloops)
Orchard Park Mall (Kelowna)
Spall Plaza (Kelowna)
Cherry Lane Shopping Centre (Penticton)
Pine Centre (Prince George)
Piccadilly Mall (Salmon Arm)
Village Green Mall (Vernon)

Whistler
7009 Nesters Rd.

Squamish
38116 2nd Ave.

Burnett officially opts out

Toronto Blue Jays pitcher A.J. Burnett will opt out of the final two years of a five-year, $55 million deal he signed with the club before the 2006 season. Burnett's agent, Darek Braunecker, met with team officials at the general managers meetings in California to inform the club of Burnett's decision. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Logo to skip Olympics

Team Canada will be without its iconic hockey logo for the 2010 Vancouver Winter Olympics. The Canadian Olympic Committee says it will not ask for an IOC exemption to use the logo, which has been used at the past three Olympic games. SOURCE: TSN.CA

SPORTS@METRONEWS.CA

Luongo, Wellwood lead the way

NHL RESULT

Predators 0 Canucks 4

VS

SCOTT RINTOUL
scott.rintoul@metronews.ca

THE SKINNY: Kyle Wellwood scored twice in one game for the first time as a Canuck and Roberto Luongo stopped 24 shots for his third shutout of the season as Vancouver snapped a two game losing streak on home ice. Wellwood opened the scoring on a second period powerplay, Mason Raymond doubled the lead with a powerplay marker in the third and Daniel Sedin rounded out the scoring with his fourth goal of the season.

THE GOAL: Wellwood's second of the game was a work of art. Grabbing a loose puck from a faceoff in the Nashville end, Wellwood quickly went forehand, backhand, then back to he forehand before roofing the puck over the empty glove of Dan Ellis.

THE CHANT: For the first time this season, chants of "Wellwood! Wellwood!" rained down from the rafters.

THE SPECIALISTS: After surrendering six powerplay goals in two outings, the Canucks killed all six of Nashville's man advantages while scoring two goals on seven powerplays.

THE PUGILISTS: Shane O'Brien landed three big punches in a second period dustup with former Tampa Bay teammate Nick Tarnasky.

THE RATING: Other than Wellwood's gorgeous goal, this wasn't a thing of beauty. The fans went home happy, but too many bland moments. 3 out of 5 stars.

THE NEXT GAME: New Westminster's Kyle Turris makes his pro debut at GM Place when Phoenix comes to town on Thursday.

REUTERS/KYLE STAFFORD

Roberto Luongo makes one of his 24 saves against Nashville last night.

Canucks game **Keeping up with history**

REUTERS/KYLE STAFFORD

The video screen at General Motors Place displays the results of the U.S. Presidential election during a break in the action between the Canucks and Nashville Predators last night.

Brodeur out 3 to 4 months

Martin Brodeur extended his reach on a slapshot against the Atlanta Thrashers on Saturday, heard a "pop" in his left elbow and felt a brief, sharp stabbing pain. Within a minute, he couldn't lift his arm. He knew that wasn't good.

Now one of the NHL's premier goaltenders faces surgery to repair the distal bicep in his left elbow, and it will be at least eight weeks before he can begin rehabilitation. He won't be back in the NHL for three or four months.

"It's shocking," Brodeur said in a conference call yesterday. "You expect my knee's going to go, or my groin, or my stomach, or something I use a goalie.

"I didn't think a bicep could have been a big factor in an injury. "That's why I think it's such a freak accident."

It's the first major surgery of the 36-year-old's career. Brodeur has been nothing shy of incredibly durable since entering the league full time in the 1993-94 season, playing a remarkable 87 per cent of New Jersey Devils games since. Brodeur is tantalizingly close to a couple of remarkable goaltending records: Seven more wins will tie him with Patrick Roy's all-time mark of 551; and he needs five more shutouts to tie the once-thought untouchable record for shutouts (103, by Jacques Plante).

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Rahman to fight Klitschko
Hasim Rahman has stepped in to challenge Wladimir Klitschko for his IBF heavyweight title. Promoters said yesterday that Rahman was selected as the replacement for Alexander Povetkin of Russia, who pulled out of the Dec. 13 fight in Mannheim, Germany, because of an ankle injury. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Buono has to believe in road-field advantage

I feel like a fool. I mean, during all my years of covering sports, I've steadfastly believed that a home team has an advantage — a significant advantage, in fact — for playoff games, especially in the CFL. Well, "only fools think" this way, according to Wally Buono.

Buono, who will surpass Don Matthews as the most victorious head coach in CFL history with five more triumphs, is adamant that home-field edges simply don't exist. Buono's B.C. Lions are 3.5-point underdogs for Saturday's Western Division semi-final — chiefly because the game is in Saskatchewan — but the coach considers the oddsmakers foolish, too. Oh, and Saskatchewan general manager Eric Tillman also is a fool in Buono's eyes. "Consider me the ultimate fool," Tillman acknowledged sarcastically, adding Saskatchewan fans "matter big-time to our franchise ... and you can bet everything you own they're going to matter on Saturday."

"You can bet everything you own they're going to matter on Saturday"
Riders' GM Eric Tillman on Saskatchewan's fans

• One of the Roughriders' key defensive players wears an insulin pump during games. Defensive lineman John Chick has diabetes. "People are shocked at first because they don't think a person can play with that," Chick said. "For me, it's a matter of overcoming something that people have struggled with, especially in the past. I'm glad to show that you can be as active as you want. You just have to take care and sacrifice some time to take control of it." Check out Chick's web site, johnchick97.com where he answers questions regularly.

• The CFL has fined the Winnipeg Blue Bombers' Kai Ellis $1,000 for saying he wished he could put Montreal Alouettes' GM Jim Popp "in a coma." Ellis, who was cut by Popp earlier this season, is appealing ... After a woebegone season in which his team failed to qualify for the playoffs, Michael (Pinball) Clemons is about to be removed as the Toronto Argonauts' president and will remain with the organization only if he agrees to return as head coach ... Noel Prefontaine, 34, is telling friends he probably won't return as the Edmonton Eskimos' punter next season. He'll test the free-agent market and may even retire ... He used to be known as Kamau Incompleterson for obvious reasons, but he was terrific this season for the Esks and look for Kamau Peterson to be chosen the CFL's premier Canadian for 2008 ... And whatever happened to the CFL returning to Ottawa? The league has given Ottawa until next March to provide concrete proof that it can have a viable franchise in 2010 but, unless things change, don't expect it to happen.

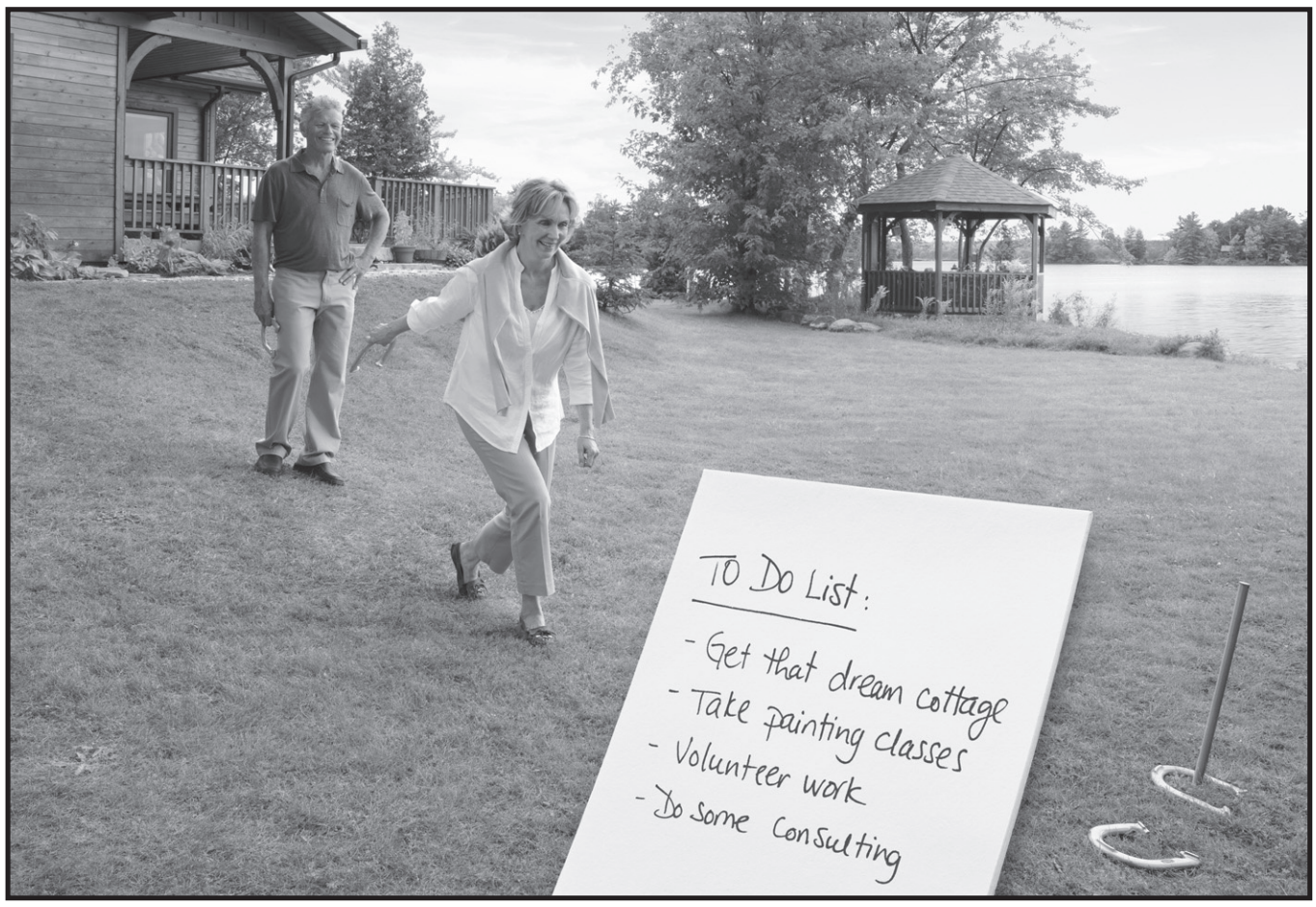
YorkReport

Marty York
marty.york@metronews.ca

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

Sabermetrics

• A group that tracks every ball hit in MLB says New York Yankees captain Derek Jeter is the worst fielder in the game. Statistics guru Bill James and a panel of nine others rank Jeter 22nd among everyday shortstops and call him the veteran "the least effective defensive player in the major leagues, at any position."



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Average gas prices drop below $1 a litre
The national average for a litre of gas hovered around 98 cents before noon yesterday, according to Gasbuddy.com. The drop signalled that overall, prices are dropping and stabilizing, said MP and gas expert Dan McTeague. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Japan **A new No. 1 electronics maker**

KIM KYUNG-HOON/REUTERS

People walk past an advertisement board for Panasonic outside an electronic shop in Tokyo yesterday. Shares in Panasonic Corp. jumped nearly 5 per cent yesterday, after sources said it planned to buy smaller rival Sanyo Electric Co. Ltd. to create Japan's largest electronics maker.

Fido's barking up a much younger tree

The country's Big Three wireless providers — Rogers, Bell and Telus — are moving in the direction of cheaper cellphone plans and more billing transparency as the prospect of more wireless competition in markets across Canada mounts.

With start-ups making noise about chasing the low-end of the market with flat-rate plans and easier-to-understand monthly bills, Rogers' youth-oriented Fido brand became the latest wireless provider to re-tool its approach by revealing a brand makeover yesterday that included a promise of "high-value low-price plans."

The move follows rival Telus Corp.'s creation of discount brand Koodo.

> **"Value seekers and new entrants to the category ... are looking for simple but affordable price plans."**
> Sylvain Roy, Fido

Sylvain Roy, Fido's senior vice-president and general manager, said the decision to "re-position" the dog-themed brand from one focused on attracting young urban professionals to one targeting price conscious first-time buyers was in recognition of a shifting wireless landscape.

"We're now going more into behavioural targeting, which is value-seekers and new entrants to the category that are looking for simple but affordable price plans."

In particular, Roy said Fido is now aiming to attract the roughly 35 per cent of Canadians who do not yet own a cellphone, a relatively large market that several prospective new players have identified as ripe for the picking.

The new Bell Canada Inc. wireless plan, unveiled earlier this week, lets subscribers "roll over" their unused minutes every month, which was touted as a first in Canada.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In **brief**

ENERGY Talisman Energy Inc. will cut spending by up to 9 per cent, or $5.3 billion, this year and next to cope with the meltdown in energy and financial markets, the head of the company said yesterday, after it posted a quadrupled third-quarter profit of $1.4 billion.

LAYOFFS Nortel Networks Corp. could shed between 3,000 and 5,000 jobs from its 32,000 payroll when it details its latest restructuring plan next week, analysts said yesterday. The company, North America's biggest maker of telephone gear, said a weak economy and spending cutbacks by telecom buyers will lead to lower sales necessitating new job cuts. **REUTERS**

TSX index rises with commodity prices

MARKETS The Toronto Stock Exchange's main index climbed 4 per cent yesterday to 10,116.58, to its highest close in two weeks as resource issues surged with rising commodity prices, and on relief that the uncertainty of the U.S. presidential election would soon be over.

Heavily weighted stocks that helped to push the market higher included Canadian Natural Resources, up 9 per cent at $62.70, and Barrick Gold, which got an 10.1 per cent boost to close at $28.97.

That was in line with the broader strength in the key energy and materials sectors, which led the market higher, rising 5.9 per cent and 10.2 per cent, respectively.

The price of crude settled up to $70.53 a barrel on signs Saudi Arabia and other OPEC members had made cuts in crude exports, while gold and base metal prices rose.

The rally was due to a "little bit of everything" as investors shopped for oversold, beaten-down stocks, said one analyst. **REUTERS**

Jittery investors sell $8.5B in funds

FUNDS Canadian investors were spooked in October as dismal stock markets prompted redemptions estimated at $8.5 billion, an industry group said.

That comes on the heels of net redemptions of $4.5 billion in September, the Investment Funds Institute of Canada said.

Equity markets were difficult for managers of all pooled investments, Pat Dunwoody, a vice-president of IFIC said in a statement. **REUTERS**

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Profits down for jewelry retailer

Online jewelry retailer Blue Nile Inc posted lower quarterly profit yesterday, as higher diamond prices and tightened credit hurt sales, and withdrew a full-year outlook, citing uncertainty over consumer spending. **REUTERS**

Developers offer perks to buyers

BENEFITS A free plasma TV. A trip to Paris. A break on land taxes. A new car.

With housing sales down dramatically in the Greater Toronto Area this year, developers and real estate agents are playing Let's Make A Deal, and buyers stand to benefit.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Harlem **Backing Barack**

MIKE SEGAR/REUTERS

A street vendor sells Barack Obama flags for cars in the Harlem section of New York City yesterday.

Marvel rakes in cash

Marvel Entertainment Inc was a victim of its own success yesterday, reporting that money from the box office smash Iron Man has poured into its coffers earlier than expected.

That helped Marvel crush estimates for its third-quarter financial performance, though it also means the company will underperform expectations next year.

Investors took most of the trading session to decide whether the good news outweighed the bad. In the end, Marvel stock nearly sat out a powerful Election Day rally. Its shares finished up 1.9 pre cent at $31.45 on the New York Stock Exchange, about the midway point of its 52-week range.

Profit at Marvel rose 39 per cent to $50.6 million on revenue that surged 48 per cent to $182.5 million. About $60 million of those sales can be attributed to Iron Man revenue that Marvel originally predicted wouldn't be recognized until next year.

The superhero saga, starring Robert Downey, Jr., grossed about $580 million US at the worldwide box office, and has been a huge hit on DVD and Blu-ray Disc.

With no new Marvel-produced releases set for next year and a bunch of Iron Man money already accounted for, Marvel significantly reined in its 2009 forecast while beefing up its full-year 2008 forecast.

Marvel now sees revenue of up to $460 million next year, while analysts were looking for $610 million. For this year, revenue could go as high as $670 million, while it previously predicted about $480 million.

Marvel's next big theatrical events are Iron Man 2 and Thor in 2010, and the company also expects that by the end of that year that its Spider-Man Broadway musical will have premiered.

REUTERS

Ontario's nuke plan hits a snag

ENERGY Ontario's push to build a new nuclear power plant at Darlington has hit another snag.

The deadline of March 31 to pick a company that will build the new reactors has been pushed back to "late spring' because of the global financial crisis, said Energy Minister George Smitherman.

"Obviously quite a bit has happened in the world," he told reporters, adding the deadline for submission of bids has also been changed, from Dec. 31 to an unspecified date early in 2009.

That delay comes as the government tries to nail down with individual bidders — Atomic Energy of Canada, Areva and Westinghouse — how much of the risk for cost overruns or construction delays they're willing to take on.

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Mexican interior minister dies in plane crash
Mexican Interior Minister Juan Camilo Mourino, an ally of President Felipe Calderon, died yesterday when a small plane he was traveling in crashed into evening rush hour traffic in Mexico City. REUTERS

East opts for pay cuts over job losses

From bankers to factory staff, workers in the West face the bleak prospect of losing their jobs as a global recession starts to bite. For colleagues in the East, the pain is more likely to come through a pay cut.

Human resource experts say cultural differences explain why Asian firms try harder to preserve jobs in difficult times, which will stem unemployment and may help keep Asian economies afloat at a time of slowing exports.

The more paternalistic East Asian attitude may also make it easier for firms to recover from the economic downturn since they will not need to rehire or train new staff, leaving some experts predicting a Western shift to Eastern flexibility.

"In the Confucian mindset, the right thing to do is to share the burden. There's that sense of collective responsibility whereas in the West, it's more about individual survival," said Michael Benoliel, associate professor of organizational behaviour at Singapore Management University (SMU).

In Hong Kong, senior staff at CLSA, the Asian brokerage arm of Credit Agricole, have agreed to a voluntary pay cut of up to 25 per cent to stave off the threat of redundancy. CLSA made similar cuts in 2003 when business slowed due to SARS. REUTERS

Migrants to China's cities hit by crisis

UNEMPLOYMENT Short of food and running low on cash, a group of men huddled under a bridge in Beijing and waited for someone, anyone to come by and offer them work, any work.

The global economic slowdown is taking a toll on China and threatens to swell its ranks of the unemployed, undoing impressive income gains made in recent years and undermining the "harmonious society" that the government prizes above all else.

Breaks

- The government, which bases its quest for social stability on economic strength, has responded with tax breaks, interest rate cuts, big spending projects and pledges to do more.

Hit especially hard are the rural migrants who have long streamed into cities to build office towers, clean streets and staff factories.

Under the bridge in southwest Beijing, an area where construction managers would hire crews in better times, Ren, a day labourer in his 40s, contemplated giving up and returning to his patch of farmland in Hebei province.

"This is the worst I've ever seen it. Normally I can get a job in a few days, but I've been out here a month already," he said.

Whether Ren goes back or not, he and an estimated 130 million rural migrants like him are not legally registered as living in the cities where they work and so do not show up in official employment statistics.

But evidence is mounting that their prospects have turned bleak in the space of just a few months. REUTERS

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Nikkei average expected to follow U.S. stocks jump

JAPAN The Nikkei average is likely to rise today, led by exporters on a softer yen and after U.S. stocks rose in the biggest election day rally ever, while higher oil prices may boost energy-linked shares such as trading firms.

Market participants said they are closely watching the result of the U.S. presidential election.

U.S. polls close in parts of Indiana and Kentucky at 6 p.m. EST (2300 GMT) and over the following six hours in the other 48 states and the District of Columbia.

"The market will likely gain on a weaker yen and after U.S. stocks continued to rise, but it will face technical resistance around 9,300-9,600," said Tsuyoshi Segawa, equity strategist at Shinko Securities.

Segawa said, before Barack Obama claimed the U.S. presidency, that the "U.S. election won't likely affect the direction of the market as stock markets in Europe, the U.S. and Japan have largely factored in a victory by Obama." REUTERS

Magna posts Q3 loss due to low U.S. auto sales

MARKET Auto-parts maker Magna International reported a quarterly loss yesterday, stung by plunging U.S. auto sales and a softening market in Europe that led it to slash production and sales forecasts and cut its dividend in half.

The Aurora, Ont.-based company said its complete vehicle assembly sales fell 20 per cent worldwide, and North American auto-parts production was down 18 per cent. It warned it did not expect conditions to improve meaningfully in the short term.

"Nobody anticipated this quick a drop in sales and production," Don Walker, Magna co-chief executive, said on a conference call.

Magna posted a net loss of $215 million in the third quarter, or $1.93 a share, compared with net income of $155 million, or $1.38 a share, in the year-before period.

In the quarter ended Sept. 30, the company said it took a hit of $2.10 a share for unusual items, which included restructuring charges and adjustments in the value of long-lived assets.

Revenue fell nine per cent to $5.5 billion on a drop in North American production sales and complete vehicle assembly sales.

Analysts on average were expecting Magna's earnings in the third quarter to be 83 cents a share, before special items, on revenue of $5.42 billion, according to Reuters Estimates. REUTERS

News in brief

MINING Xstrata and the union representing striking workers at the Kidd metallurgical operations in Canada will restart talks in the hopes of resolving a walkout that began over a month ago, a union official said. REUTERS

Province to invest in nursing program
The B.C. government announced last week it will invest $2.85 million over six years in operating funding for the British Columbia Institute of Technology's 3-year accelerated nursing program, the first of its kind in the province . METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

Olympic parking

Six Vancouver post-secondary institutions will offer their parking lots as official Olympic park-and-ride spots during the 2010 Games. At some lots, Olympic spectators can park and catch their bus to Whistler. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Changing football cleats for ballet slippers

Former football player leaps from Saturday night lights to midsummer night dreams

MARIA COOTAUCO
for Metro Vancouver

As a high school football player, Donald Sales thought he'd eventually make a career out of the sport.

Ten years later, the 27-year-old didn't go pro. He went ballet.

Beginning tomorrow, Sales will take on a lead role in Ballet B.C.'s The Faerie Queen production, an adaptation of Shakespeare's a Midsummer Night's Dream.

"I ended up being sidetracked by pointing feet and pretty girls," he said of his career choice. "There was a girl in my high school who was a dancer … and one day, she asked me if I'd join her in a dance recital."

Sales said yes and ended up catching the eye of the school's dance director.

"She said she saw something in me and asked if I'd be willing to stay," Sales recalled.

Sales agreed and launched his ballet career.

"I like being able to come into work and knowing I might have a challenge with a certain role," he said. "I have a lot of good friends here that keep me motivated. It's also helping me to merge into a choreographic career if I plan to do that later on down the road."

"There was a girl in my high school who was a dancer … and one day, she asked me If I'd join her in a dance recital ."
Dancer Donald Sales

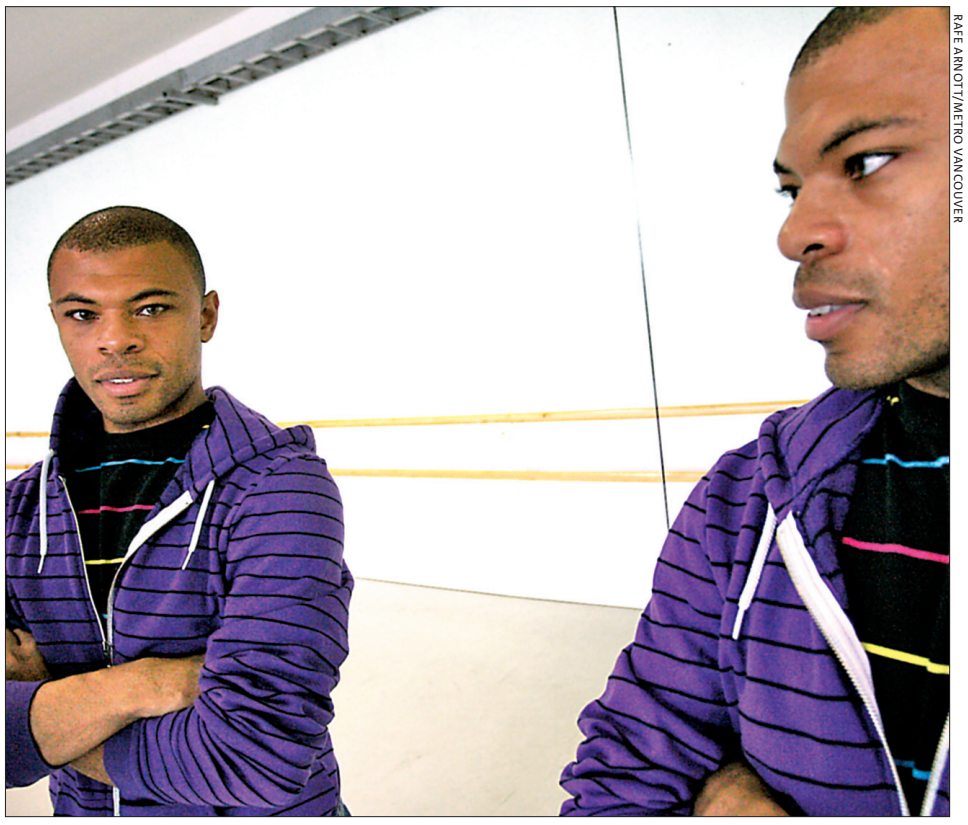
According to the Tulsa-native, the road to achieving success in the ballet world as a male dancer was not as long and arduous and many would think.

"I do get looked at strange when I say I'm a ballet dancer," he said with a laugh. "People had their stereotypes but I don't think so these days. Not anymore."

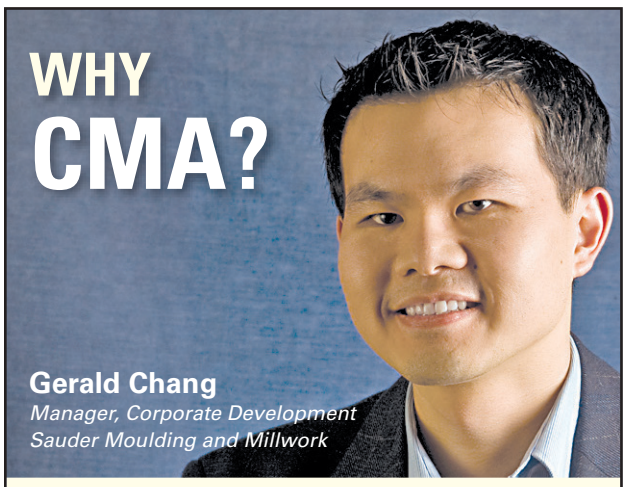
Sales' other great love is music — he croons smooth R & B tunes when he's not dancing.

In recent weeks, however, his time has been focused on preparing for The Faerie Queen where he'll take on the role of Oberon, the king of the faeries.

"A normal day is waking up at around 7:30 a.m. and going to pilates," Sales said. "From 11:15 a.m. to 6 p.m., I'm rehearsing all day. And there's a lunch break in there somewhere if I remember."


RAFE ARNOTT/METRO VANCOUVER

Football player-turned-ballet dancer Donald Sales at the Scotiabank Dance Centre. He performs in the Faerie Queen at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre tomorrow.



Earning the distinction of being the youngest Manager in his company's 80 year history, Gerald Chang's experience spans from being a Financial Analyst, to a Business Development Manager for a Beijing consulting company to his current position as Manager, Corporate Development with Sauder Moulding and Millwork. Gerald began the **CMA Program** in September 2007.

"Thanks in large part to my experience and my current training in the CMA Program, I recently accepted a promotion and will be using a lot of what I learn as a CMA to enhance our company's leadership development and overall corporate strategy."
"I chose CMA because I wanted to differentiate myself by obtaining the designation that provides the best mix of strategy, leadership and accounting."

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Economic tumble no reason to wave white flags

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

ENTREPRENEURS Though the economy is taking a tumble, start-ups businesses shouldn't wave a white flag.

Instead start-ups need to sell themselves on those qualities which make them attractive to investors — great ideas built well into a valuable, efficient product.

Jevon MacDonald, co-founder of the annual StartupEmpire entrepreneurial conference, admits that finding money will be harder in the current economy for start-up businesses but getting rolling once the money is in will actually be easier.

"Financing is going to be more difficult and it is going to be harder, but there's going to be less competition and fewer barriers to entry. I think smart entrepreneurs realize this is going to be a great time for start-ups," MacDonald said.

Investors still need to make a living like anyone else after all, and the harsher financial conditions just mean they are going to be even pickier in funding start-ups that are efficient, clever and acutely aware of their own cash-flow.

"People are going to be fighting that much harder and leaner, meaner, fiercer start-ups are still going to succeed. It's all about being nimble," MacDonald said.

One key factor which determines a city's investment potential is the overall amount of money available for entrepreneurs — richer cities with investment-minded lenders provide a much more fertile ground than poorer ones with tight-pursed investors.

The second factor is the number of "angel investors" present — benefactors who are willing to take the risk of financially backing a great idea from conception to completion.

Once investment is in place, good guidance is needed to help any new business get rolling and having a community of mentors is fundamental to nurturing new businesses.

Getting a start-up investment might be more difficult these days, but it's not impossible.

"The thing you see at the core of any great environment is a strong community of people who can give you the practical tools and guidance you need to succeed," he said.

MacDonald wants to see more mentorship of new start-ups by older, experienced companies and leaders to create an even stronger base for innovation in the city — especially since mentorship is a win-win situation for both sides of the equation.

"People are going to be fighting that much harder and leaner, meaner, fiercer start-ups are still going to succeed. It's all about being nimble."
StartupEmpire co-founder Jevon MacDonald

Start-ups gain access to invaluable, experienced market advice while mentors can get in on the ground floor of a potentially profitable business idea for relatively cheap.

"Mentorship is a form of investment, it's right up there with capital. It can be very profitable too — it's not just social work," MacDonald said.

Climate change teach-in
This week, more than 100 faculty members and their classes in 13 post-secondary institutions in B.C. are taking part in goBEYOND's Teach-In to discuss how students and schools can fight climate change. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Flu virus freedom

There are some simple ways to avoid catching that nasty bug this season

ROBYN YOUNG
for Metro Canada

You know that guy who sits two cubicles away and has been coughing and hacking all over his keyboard for the last two days?

First of all, he should be at home in bed and secondly, stay at least three feet away from him at all times: The flu virus won't make it beyond that distance even in the most explosive sneeze.

As flu season forces itself upon us once again and germs run rampant throughout poorly-ventilated offices, two Toronto-area influenza experts say there are some simple ways to avoid contracting the nasty little bug.

"Get your flu shot," says Dr. Irene Armstrong, an associate medical officer with Toronto Public Health. And don't be afraid the shot will make you sick, she said.

"The flu shot cannot give you the flu; there's no live virus in the vaccine."

Dr. Susy Hota, infectious diseases specialist with Toronto's University Health Network, says except for people with special health conditions, everyone should get the shot.

"It protects you from getting sick, but it also protects the people who are the most vulnerable around you from getting sick," she said.

Toronto's first public flu shot clinic took place Oct. 27, and clinics will continue at 60 different locations across the city through Dec. 13.

Aside from getting the flu shot, there are a number of additional steps you can take to avoid contracting the virus says Armstrong.

"Handwashing, handwashing, handwashing," she said emphatically.

Wash your hands frequently using soap and water, scrubbing them for at least 15 seconds and rinsing well, she said. Then use a paper towel to dry them off, turn off the taps and turn the handle of any public washroom door.

Of course, alcohol-based hand sanitizers also work to kill bacteria but that's only if there's no visible dirt on your hands, she added. And remember to keep your hands away from your mouth, eyes and nose, she said.

Viruses are easily transferred through these mucus membranes.

Hota suggests being vigilant about keeping your work surface clean. And if you know you are under the weather with either a cold or flu?

"Don't go to work," said Armstrong. It's as simple as that, she said; you're not doing anyone any favours by dragging your virus-riddled body to the office where the flu can spread like wildfire among your colleagues.

During recovery period, which Armstrong says can last anywhere from two to seven days, be sure to drink lots of fluids, get plenty of rest and stay away from others — especially those with compromised immune systems.

Both doctors recommended Tylenol for relief of fever, aches and pains associated with the flu and both said good, old-fashioned prevention through hygiene and the flu shot is the best way to steer clear of the flu this season.

As for the effectiveness of popular herbal remedies like Cold FX or Echinacea, both reserved comment.

"I'm not aware of studies that actually show they have a well-studied benefit," said Armstrong.

For more information on beating the flu and finding flu shot clinics near you visit Toronto Public Health at toronto.ca/health/flu/index.htm.

Cold and flu facts

- Infants under the age of six months should not get the flu shot.
- People who should definitely get the flu shot are pregnant women, anyone over the age of 65, children under two years, or those who have compromised immune systems.
- Coughing or sneezing into your sleeve rather than your hand is an easy way to avoid spreading the virus.
- An estimated 4,000 to 8,000 Canadians die of flu-related complications every year.

Getting your flu shot is the best way to steer clear of the flu this season.

A healthy workplace makes for productive staff

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

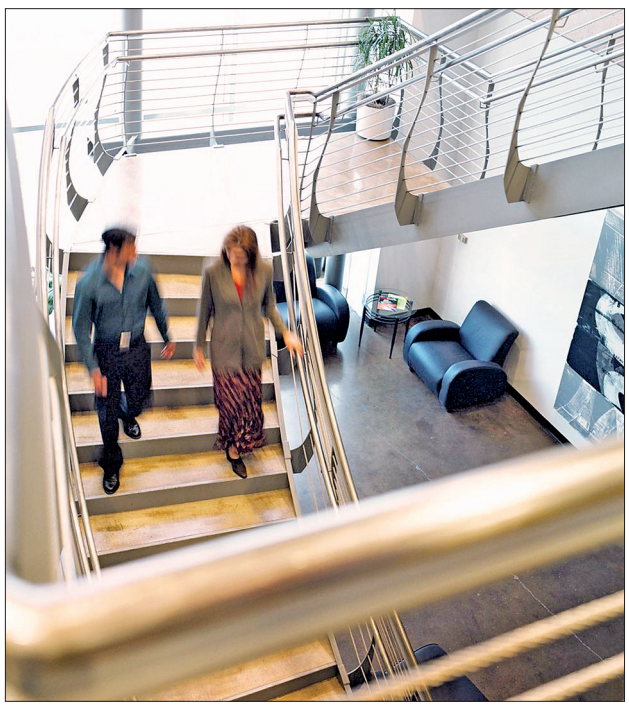
Staying healthy is only half the battle — staying healthy in the workplace is just as important.

October is Canada's Healthy Workplace Month so there's never been a better time to get healthy at work.

According to the National Quality Institute (NQI), a non-profit organization that helps businesses promote healthy workplaces, health-care costs are increasing at twice the rate of inflation in Canada and eight per cent of Canadian workers report taking some form of medication to treat a mental-health condition.

While treatment for existing health issues is important, the NQI suggests prevention is even more crucial to keeping employees happy and healthy in the workplace by lowering stress levels, providing encouragement and offering better dietary options at work.

Katie Rodgers is co-founder of Licious Living, a meal delivery service that specializes in providing healthy food options to workplaces and homes looking to take the guesswork out of healthy meals. Rodgers says workplace health takes a combination of factors to get right and food is just one part of the whole picture.



Encouraging workers to take the stairs is one step toward motivating employees and promting healthy living at work.

"It's where your whole staff is energetic, feeling good, eating a healthy diet and finding time to exercise. It's all about bringing balance," Rodgers said.

Whether you're an employer or an employee, Rodgers suggest the first place to begin when creating a plan for staying healthy at work is to be realistic with what your goals and needs are.

"The best thing to do is make yourself a plan that is realistic for you. You can't change everything all at once and setting realistic goals is important for people who want change," Rodgers said.

Eating leaner proteins like skinless white meat chicken or lean carbs like fruits and veggies is a great start but don't forget foods chock full of healthy fats like salmon and almonds too.

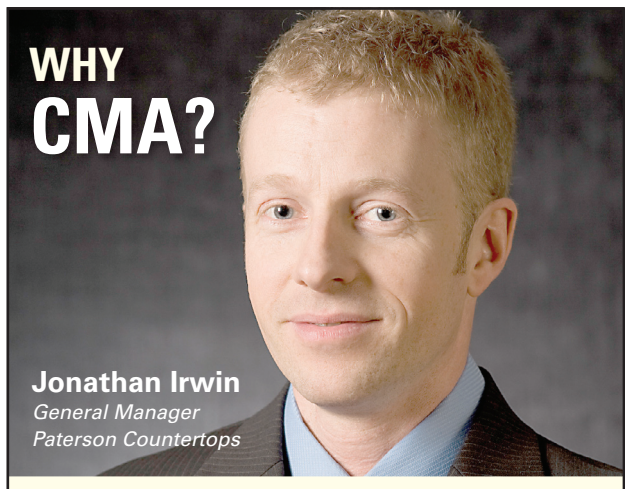
"You can't change everything all at once and setting realistic goals is important for people who want change,."
Licious Living founder Katie Rodgers

And when it comes to exercise, the best idea is to get the whole office in on the action with a fun workplace challenge or two, like tracking how often people take the stairs instead of the elevator or starting a morning jogging club before work. The key is to put everything in writing and keep records to make the challenges stick.

"Put together a challenge and have a place employees can go to track it," Rodgers said.

Besides a little friendly competition to motivate you, tracking exactly what you eat and in which quantities can help you start to see the bigger picture, something which Rodgers says most people don't have a handle on.

"A lot of people aren't aware of what they're eating and tracking all the good and bad stuff can help you stay on track," she said.



As General Manager at Paterson Countertops, a family owned company, Jon Irwin's responsibilities cover almost all aspects of the business. Since September 2007, Jon has been enrolled in the **CMA Program.**

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Billion dollar campus approved

The City of Richmond has approved Langley-based Trinity Western University's plan to build a new billion-dollar campus in Richmond. The campus will feature a community centre and educational space. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Despite current economic woes, some jobs still in demand

SALARIES Even in the current economy, certain skill sets remain difficult to find, according to the 2009 Salary Guides from Robert Half International.

The recently released guides point to modest overall salary increases for accounting, information technology and administrative roles, but highlight specialized expertise that can enhance a professional's marketability. This includes account reconciliation and credit/collections experience and web development skills.

"Companies highly value employees who can identify cost efficiencies, develop long-range business strategies and maximize the use of technology," said Max Messmer, chairman and CEO of Robert Half International. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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The pitfalls of university rankings

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

There's no guarantee students will have a better experience at a school that ranks high in surveys.

University rankings are a popular and often controversial means of rating different schools, but does a particular rank always mean a school is better or worse for learning?

Not necessarily.

At best, numbers comparing things like total research capital, the number of instructors who have won prestigious awards like the Nobel Prize or the amount of courses offered only really illustrate the better opportunities and options a school might be able to offer.

There's no intrinsic guarantee a student will personally have a better educational experience at a school that ranks highly for research investment nor necessarily at one which students have rated highly for quality of education. Each educational experience is unique, after all.

Dr. Ying Cheng is a spokesperson for the Academic Ranking of World Universities organization which ranks world universities according to a variety of factors including academic and research performance, number of awards won by instructors, number of articles published in research publications by instructors and average academic performance of the student body.

The ARWU focuses on research rankings and Cheng says the organization "only considers internationally comparable indicators."

Cheng says that even when using numbers which appear objective, rankings are still uncertain because the factors chosen for ranking all tell a different story. For instance, student opinion surveys conducted by Maclean's magazine in Canada show that most undergraduates report better educational experiences at smaller schools, even though larger, more established schools tend to score much higher in the overall rankings.

In the Maclean's 2008 Student Survey for example, the University of Toronto and McGill University, which rank first and second respectively in the Maclean's overall ranking, plummet to 30th and 29th place respectively across Canada in the level of meaningful academic challenge reported by their students, with even lower rankings for their levels of student-faculty interaction.

Yet both schools are acknowledged as outstanding centres of world research, with U of T being ranked 24th in the world by ARWU and McGill as a respectable 60th out of the top 500 schools in the world for research. Clearly then, numbers can never be the whole story in any university ranking as each school has its own strengths and weaknesses and every ranking system has its own sources of bias, a fact that Dr. Cheng stresses cannot be glossed over in any ranking system.

"The quality of universities cannot be precisely measured by mere numbers. Therefore, any ranking is controversial and no ranking is absolutely objective. People should be cautious about any ranking, including our Academic Ranking of World Universities, since the positions of universities can only reflect their performance on a group of selected indicators," Cheng said.

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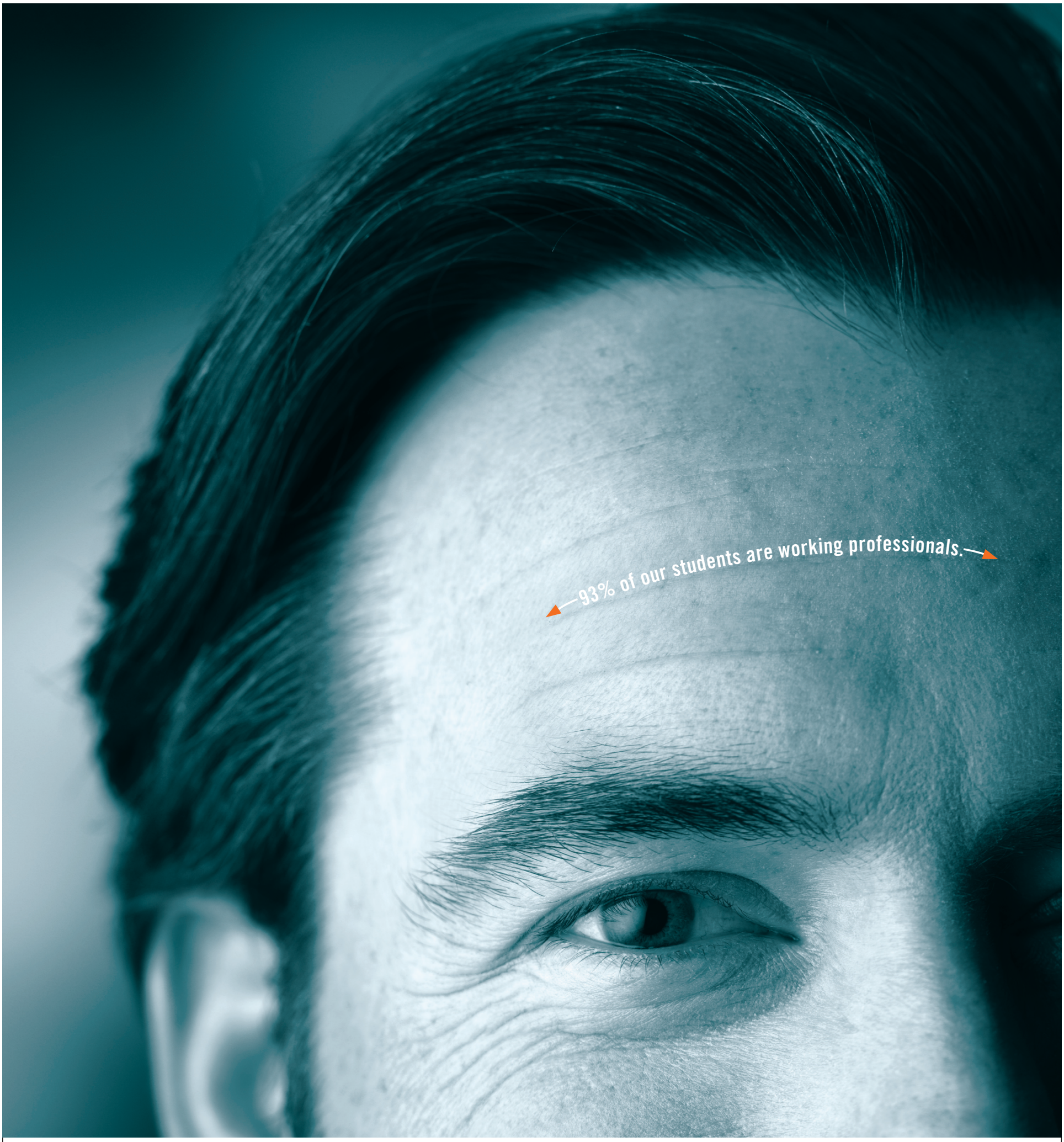

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Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: carguide magazine.com

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

... and 'best new' winners are

Automotive Journalists Association of Canada announces picks

BY JIM ROBINSON
AND ROB BIENTEMA
for Metro Canada

The winners of the 14 categories of the Automotive Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC) Canadian Car of the Year (CCOTY) category winners have been announced. They are, back row from left: Mercedes-Benz M-Class BlueTec, Ford Flex, Subaru Forester, Audi TTS, Lexus IS-F, Hyundai Genesis, BMW X6 (later declared out-pointed by co-winners Mercedes CL550 4Matic, Mercedes SL63 AMG) and Dodge Ram. Front row from left: Mazda6, Audi A4, Toyota Corolla, Pontiac Vibe, BMW 135i Coupe and Volkswagen Passat CC.

After five days of intense testing, the 2009 "Best New" AJAC award winners in 14 different vehicle categories were announced, by the Automobile Journalists Association of Canada (AJAC).

The purpose of the AJAC awards is to provide consumers with a valuable resource that comprises comparative information on vehicles that are new to the market.

Are consumers listening? It would appear so.

Maritz Research, on behalf of AJAC and in association with General Motors of Canada Ltd., conducted a survey of 2008 Buick Enclave purchasers to test their recognition of AJAC, the AJAC awards and the Buick Enclave as the winner of the Best New SUV Over $60,000 award for 2008.

Seventy four per cent of the 2008 Buick Enclave buyers who were aware of the AJAC Awards program when they purchased their vehicles knew that the Enclave was voted Best New SUV Over $60,000, a record high-point for awareness. And of those buyers, 41 per cent said the award had a positive influence on their buying decision.

That is a concrete measure of how influential the AJAC Canadian Car of the Year Awards have become.

For that reason, the vote results that determined the winners are available on the AJAC web site www.ajac.ca, for use by consumers as a resource buying guide when researching the purchase of a new car, truck, SUV, or CUV for 2009.

2009 CATEGORY WINNERS

BEST NEW SMALL CAR
(under $18k): Toyota Corolla
(over $18k): Pontiac Vibe
BEST NEW FAMILY CAR
($22k-$30k): Mazda6
(over $30k): Volkswagen Passat CC
BEST NEW LUXURY CAR
(under $50k): Hyundai Genesis
(over $50k): Audi A4
BEST NEW PRESTIGE CAR
Mercedes CL 550 and Mercedes SL 63 AMG (tie)
BEST NEW SPORTS/PERFORMANCE CAR
(under $50k): BMW 135i Coupe
(over $50k): Lexus IS F
BEST NEW CONVERTIBLE
Audi TTS
BEST NEW PICKUP TRUCK
Dodge Ram
BEST NEW SUV/CUV
(under $35k): Subaru Forester
($35k-$60k): Ford Flex
(over $60k): Mercedes-Benz M-Class BlueTEC

The 14 category winners listed above now go on to compete for the honour of being either the 2009 Canadian Car of the Year or the 2009 Canadian Utility Vehicle of the Year.

These overall winners will be announced on February 11, 2009, at the 2009 Canadian International Auto Show in Toronto.

The 2009 Best New Design and Best New Technology winners will also be declared at that time.

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*Cash purchase price reflects discounts only available with cash purchase price offer and not available for purchase financing or lease offers. Freight ($1225) and PDI included. Licence, insurance, registration, PPSA, administration fees, duties and taxes not included. Dealers are free to set individual prices. See newspaper or your participating dealer for details. [1]When equipped with a 5-speed manual transmission, estimated 2009 ratings, based on GM testing in accordance with approved transport Canada test methods. Your actual fuel consumption may vary. [2]Equivalent Aveo model tested. US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program (www.safercar.gov). [3]Whichever comes first. See dealer for limited warranty details.

Slice of shrinking pie

Kia enters smaller SUV segment with new Borrego

BRADLEY HORN
for Metro Canada

As much as zealots of the green cause preach about it, sport utility-vehicles have not, and will not, die. Heck, the Chevy Suburban has survived industry turmoil for 73 years, becoming the longest-living, continuously built, automotive nameplate on the planet.

No matter how high fuel prices rise, there will always be folks who need a tall, tough truck, to tow equipment, toys and to ferry the family. And therein lies the rub: Buying an SUV is once again based largely on need rather than frivolous want.

The segment's becoming smaller, so outfits like Kia, with its new V8 Borrego sport-ute, will have to work that much harder to grab a piece of the shrinking pie.

The Borrego joins Kia's Sportage and Sorento as the automaker's first mid-size, seven-seat, ladder-frame SUV, though considering its "size and available V8, it also has the capacity to rival vehicles classified in the large SUV segment."

Riding on a wheelbase of 2895 mm (114.0 in.), it's neck-and-neck with a Nissan Pathfinder in length (4884 mm/192.3 in.) and just 44 mm longer than its cross-town (seven-seat) Korean unibody cousin, the Hyundai Veracruz.

Aside from the truck's name (which does not, in fact, come from a rare strain of ultra-hot burritos, but a big horned sheep found in Southern California), what first caught our attention were the Borrego's aggressive pricing and its out-of-the-box equipment list.

The Borrego comes with a long list of features as standard including four-wheel drive, six airbags and four-wheel disc brakes with ABS.

Even the garden-variety LX V6, which stickers for $36,995, comes with a laundry list of features like four-wheel drive, six airbags including curtains for all rows, four-wheel disc brakes with ABS, heated front seats, three-months of Sirius satellite radio, a USB and auxiliary input, a backup warning system, Electronic Stability Control, and two firsts for Kia: Downhill Assist Control and Hill Ascent Control.

The "luxury," EX model adds dual-zone automatic climate control, leather, an electric tilt/telescoping steering wheel, a sunroof, gussied-up gauges, etc. for $40,995.

The eight-cylinder models follow the LX/EX model lineage too, and sticker for $39,495 and $43,495, respectively.

Despite the impressive value stance Kia's taken with the Borrego, tech-savvy readers will be left disappointed that a navigation system (available in the U.S.), a power hatch, Bluetooth connectivity, etc. were left out of the options mix. (Note, in the U.S., a base 4x2 Borrego is priced $10,000 less than in Canada, running to around $40K for a loaded EX V8).

Kia's not breaking any styling moulds here, inside or out, but the Borrego is attractive overall, functional and well screwed together.

Its two-box design means lots of people and paraphernalia room. Third row access is a climb, but there's decent headroom once you're back there. Fold those seats (and the second row) to open up an impressive cargo cave.

The Borrego's chassis is a hydro-formed affair wearing a front double-wishbone and rear multi-link suspension.

With the eight-pot engine under hood, it can tow a class-leading 7,500 lb. (5,000 with the V6). Note though that all that pulling prowess does sacrifice ride comfort, as the stout rear suspension can get grumpy over rippled roads.

2009 Kia Borrego

Type: SUV
Price: $36,995
Engine: V6/V8
HP: 276-337

Highlights

- Excellent Towing
- Seats seven
- Impressive value

Cellphone based alert system tested

Nissan has launched a community-based test of its Intelligent Transport System (ITS), integrating cellular communications with vehicle telematics to help prevent pedestrian-related accidents.

The pilot project is being conducted over a two-month period from Nov. 1 to Dec. 27.

This represents the first and largest such experiment of its kind, involving 500 pedestrians and 200 drivers, and in collaboration with NTT DoCoMo Inc, the largest mobile network operator in Japan.

Participants will use a special cellular phone that is compatible to the Nissan navigation system on-board test vehicles, and simply go about their regular daily routines, commuting within the neighbourhood.

As a vehicle is approaching a residential city area where many blind intersections exist, the driver can be alerted of a pedestrian hidden around the corner, by voice message and screen display via the navigation system.

This is possible as the information server detects data transmitted via GPS (Global Positioning System) to the cellular phone carried by the pedestrian and sends it to the vehicle navigation system, which then triggers the alert.

The system assists the driver to take precautionary measures and drive more carefully, which can help to reduce pedestrian-vehicle collisions.

This Wild West Hummer H3 was part of a recent Zoo Art Fair exhibition in London, England.

Hummer goes wildly West

English artist Matthew Harrison unveiled his latest project entitled Hummer at the fifth Zoo Art Fair (Oct, 17-20) in London, England. It is a Hummer H3 complete with wooden wagon wheels.

Harrison is exhibiting on behalf of East London gallery, Limoncello, one of 57 showcasing works from some of the most exciting art talent in the world.

Harrison has combined the legendary off-road vehicle with Wild West wooden wheels to create a sculpture that is a mixture of art, engineering and motoring. For Harrison, the crux of the Hummer is formed by both its being and its afterlife.

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Forester stays true

LORNE DRURY
for Metro Canada

Subaru was one of the originators of the crossover segment with its Forester model some 12 years ago.

It was a smaller, compact sport utility vehicle with a four-cylinder engine, all-wheel drive and built on a car chassis rather than a truck, like other SUVs of the era.

This spring, the third-generation Forester made its debut for the 2009 model year and Subaru hasn't changed things all that much.

Sure, it's a bigger, bolder and a little less boxy-looking than before, but it still offers the same combination of versatility, rugged dependability and performance that has made the Forester the best-selling model in the Subaru arsenal.

Like every Subaru, it features full-time all-wheel drive. Two choices of engine are available.

The Forester 2.5X has either a five-speed manual or optional four-speed automatic transmission mated with a 2.5-litre four-cylinder Boxer engine, producing 170 hp and 170 lb/ft or torque.

Also available in the 2.5XT Limited is a turbo-version of the 2.5 engine. It produces 224 hp and 226 lb/ft or torque and comes with only the four-speed automatic.

My tester was the 2.5X with Touring Package, which includes 16-inch aluminum alloy wheels, power sliding large glass sunroof, multi-reflector halogen fog lights, chrome door handles, stainless steel muffler cutters, wiper de-icer, rear seat cushion table with integrated cup holders, reclining rear seats and cargo tray area. It priced out at a reasonable $27,995, while the automatic version adds $1,100 to the price tag.

The 2009 Subaru Forester is the third generation of a vehicle that helped create the crossover segment, one of the fastest-growing areas in the automotive market these days. Like previous models, the '09 Forester has all-wheel drive and is equally at home on road or off-road with standard stability control, traction control and its high ground clearance.

Unlike when it first bowed and virtually created its own niche in the automotive market, the Forester sits smack dab in the middle of today's highly-competitive CUV segment, against strong challengers such as the Honda CR-V and Toyota RAV4. This is a segment that is expected to continue to see growth as more and more consumers are dumping their larger SUVs and replacing them with more fuel efficient, better performing and easier-to-drive crossover models.

To that end, Subaru has freshened up the look of the 2009 Forester, making the exterior design more shapely with less of that "tall wagon" look.

Changes include a new grill, a higher hood, new lights and a large, contoured bumper cover. Sharply defined character lines with pronounced fender flares accentuate the new profile.

Functional improvements include a wider door opening for improved accessibility and a rear gate opening, which is wider and taller, yet still easy to close.

Unlike many CUVs and SUVs where rear visibility is reduced because of the vehicle's high stance and somewhat small rear window, the Forester is different.

The rear gate has a large glass area that allows average-sized drivers to see an object one metre tall within one metre of the vehicle. In other words, you'll have a much easier time seeing small children on the sidewalk behind you when backing out of a driveway.

2009 Subaru Forester

Type: Compact crossover
Price: $25,795 to $34,895. As tested, $27,995
Engine: 2.5-litre Boxer four cylinder; 2.5-litre turbocharged Boxer four-cylinder
HP: 170-224

Hamilton sticks with Merc

LEISURE RIDE Vodafone McLaren Mercedes Formula 1 driver Lewis Hamilton is about to get behind the wheel of another Mercedes-Benz GL-Class, his preferred car choice when away from the racetrack. His latest 4MATIC model is a new GL 320 CDI, is powered by a three-litre V6 common-rail diesel engine, developing 224 hp.

Lewis' Vodafone McLaren Mercedes Formula 1 car, on the other hand, has a 2.4-litre V8 engine developing at least 500 hp more, at an incredible 19,000 rpm. Explaining his choice of road-going vehicle, Hamilton said, "At the track I always drive on the limit, but on public roads I like to relax, kick back and cruise. The GL's perfect for that."

Customer service trumps premiums: Study

Despite a high level of public scrutiny and industry focus on premiums, customer service overshadows price as the most important driver of satisfaction among auto and home insurance policyholders in Canada, according to the J.D. Power and Associates 2008 Canadian Home and Auto Insurance Customer Satisfaction Study.

Among auto insurance policyholders, where premiums are higher and price sensitivity is greater, customer service remains the most important driver making up 28 per cent of customer satisfaction, compared with 25 per cent accounted for by price/premium.

"Property and casualty insurance has long been considered a commodity business, with most policies written through independent brokers and with heavy government regulation in auto insurance rates and coverage," said Lubo Li, senior director of Canadian financial services and insurance at J.D. Power and Associates.

Customer service remains the most important driver for auto insurance making up 28 per cent of customer satisfaction, compared with 25 per cent for price/premium, according to a 2008 J.D. Power and Associates study.

State Farm ranks highest in customer satisfaction among private full-coverage automotive insurance providers with a score of 757 on a 1,000-point scale, performing particularly well in customer service and billing/payment.

Belairdirect (749) and Johnson Insurance (736) follow in the rankings.

The study finds that among policyholders who have filed a claim with their primary auto insurer in the past three years, the importance of claim handling increases considerably to account for 41 per cent of overall satisfaction.

Auto insurance customers who say they are delighted (providing ratings of 10 on a 10-point scale) with their insurer report making an average of six positive recommendations during the past 12 months, while dissatisfied policyholders (providing ratings of 4 or less) report making 12 negative comments about their insurer during the same period, on average.

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Travel

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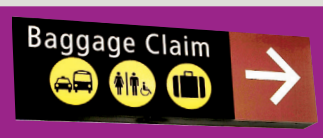

Items found in luggage at the Unclaimed Baggage Centre in Scottsboro, Al., include a 40.95-carat natural emerald, a full suit of armour, a rattle snake, a parachute, Egyptian artifacts, a 5.8-carat solitaire diamond ring and a guidance system for an F16 fighter jet. See *unclaimedbaggage.com*. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Down on the farm — in the jungles of Belize

Deep in the jungles of Central America, where jaguars, crocodiles and Howler monkeys are king, visitors may spot something out of the ordinary. Women in bonnets, suited up in wooly winter frocks; men dressed in overalls and straw Cowboy hats; children riding stone-faced in horse-drawn buggies.

A Mennonite settlement in the heart of the jungles of Belize may seem like a hallucination brought on by the intense humidity and hypnotizing buzz of cicadas. But this is no illusion. Amidst Mayan ruins overgrown by moss, there are some 5,000 Mennonites living in this, small central American country, bordering Mexico and Guatemala.

Mennonites, I learned, are a Protestant religious sect, first formed in the Netherlands in the 16th century. While there are 1 million worldwide, many have settled throughout Belize, among the towns of Orange Walk, Shipyard and Indian Creek. Belize's government welcomed them and praised their farming expertise, which accounts for much of the country's produce. They live a simple, ultra-conservative life in closed, farming communities.

Tourists staying at the Lamanai Outpost Lodge, an eco-resort that offers a jungle expeditions to nearby ruins, may arrange a visit to a Mennonite community.

From the air-conditioned comfort of the 4 X 4 Land Rover, I travelled a few kilometers to Indian Creek, home to some 1400 Mennonites. From the back of the car, I watched the landscape change from lush jungle of tangled vines, to vast, (clear-cut) pastoral farmlands. The Land Rover stopped abruptly in front of a horse-and-buggy, and I scrambled out of the car to meet Abe, a respected member of the Mennonite community who agreed to show me around.

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

Many residents in the Indian Creek community shy away from outsiders, but Abe is keen to show tourists the life of a Belizean Mennonite.

Wearing blue overalls, a crisp marine blue shirt, droplets of sweat gathering on his upper lip, Abe shook my hand with a firm paw. A kind man with a family of four girls, he was warm and welcoming.

Though many residents shy away from outsiders, Abe is keen to show people around. He explained that Mennonites here refuse to use modern technology. No television, no cell phones, no electricity, no cars. Abe told me that the reasoning behind it is to create a strong family unit, without the distractions or temptations of modernity.

A horse and buggy packed with cloaked women sped along the unpaved road. Air thick with moisture, my back dripping with sweat, I couldn't imagine what it must be like to wear such heavy layers of petticoats and dresses everyday.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.

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Inspirational film
Daniel Day-Lewis' My Left Foot has been voted the most inspirational film of all time in a new poll by Moviefone.com. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

Fawcett case
Lawanda Jackson, a former employee of Los Angeles' UCLA Medical Center, has pleaded not guilty to charges she sold information from Farrah Fawcett's medical records to the National Enquirer. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Theron settles suit over watch

PEOPLE Charlize Theron has settled a $20-million US lawsuit with the luxury watchmaker that accused her of breach of contract, imdb.com reports.

Bosses at Swiss company Raymond Weil claimed they paid Theron the sum to wear its watches exclusively between October 2005 and December 2006.

According to court documents, Theron broke their agreement when she "was photographed wearing a watch from the Christian Dior line" in Texas in 2006.

In brief

ACCIDENT The death of a stunt technician on the set of the latest Batman was an accident, BBC News Online reports a jury as having decided. Conway Wickliffe died last year in England, during filming of The Dark Knight. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Male bonding over 007

RICK MCGINNIS
Metro Canada

I was shooting a wedding when I saw him — the 10-year-old nephew of the bride, strutting and preening in his first rented tuxedo. He was going through a James Bond phase, his father and uncles explained, both amused and a little proud, no doubt remembering the first time they had let themselves become obsessed with Ian Fleming's secret agent.

Daniel Craig, left, and Gemma Arterton in a scene from the new James Bond film, Quantum of Solace.

For several weeks now, I've been researching a Becoming James Bond series for Metro, and without exception, every man I've spoken to along the way, from luxury car salesmen to caviar importers to haberdashers to wine and spirits experts, has proved to be a James Bond expert in their own right, able to quote lines from the books and scenes from the movies with obvious familiarity.

Few men are as willing to take their Bond obsession as far as Michael Newitt, a 41-year-old who was arrested in England last month for posing as a secret agent to keep ahead of creditors. According to a story in the U.K.'s Guardian newspaper, Newitt had fooled several local police officers and even his own wife with his story of being "a special operations commander with MI5, the Foreign Office and counter-terrorism units," and would sleep with a replica gun beside his bed and suddenly disappear on "missions."

The magic of Bond is that his appeal is multifold, and changes to suit every stage of a man's life. For the preteen boy, Bond is a more plausible superhero for a time when men in capes and tights are starting to seem a bit ludicrous, even undignified. For the teenager, he's enviably adult without being dull, suggesting a possibility of life without tedious routine.

For the man in his twenties, all too aware of how routine and responsibility are closing in on him, Bond is a rebel who gets applauded for breaking the rules, enjoying the perquisites of adulthood — risk, reward, luxury and apparently guiltless sex— without obligations to prudence or fidelity.

For men in their 30s and 40s, he's the consummate professional, esteemed and disciplined, with an apparently perpetual free pass exempting him from midlife crisis. Finally, for older men, Bond is a reminder of a time when they could draw from both youth and experience, a totem of virility that gets renewed every few years onscreen by a new man clearly in his prime.

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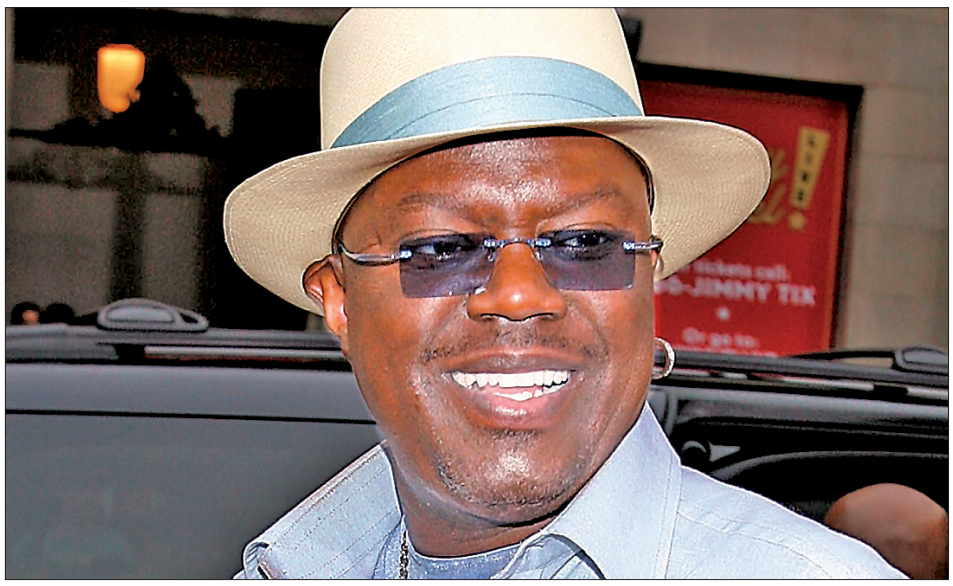
"This is very much a personal portrait of who I am and where I come from set against the beautiful backdrop of my Northern California coast."
– Sara Bareilles

Warrant issued for alleged Cusack stalker
A Los Angeles judge has issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Emily Leatherman, the woman who last month pleaded no contest to stalking actor John Cusack, after she allegedly violated a protection order. **E! NEWS ONLINE**

Bernie brings warmth

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

When moviegoers check out the animated sequel Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa, they will not only be reuniting with the beloved quartet of lost zoo animals, they will meet Alex the lion's long lost father and be treated to a special vocal performance by one of comedy's most gifted craftsmen.



Bernie Mac, who died at the age of 50 from pneumonia in August, stars in Madagascar: Escape 2.

"It was very difficult casting the character of Alex's father because we knew that the character would be judgmental and have high expectations and we didn't want to do the Great Santini," explained co-director Tom McGrath during a recent interview in Los Angeles.

"We needed someone who would bring the warmth to it."

McGrath and company looked no farther than Bernie Mac — the acclaimed comic-actor who sadly passed away from pneumonia in August at age 50.

This Friday, the late actor will be honoured with two theatrical releases — the other being Soul Men with Samuel L. Jackson.

"The greatest part of that loss is that you had a person that was just honest and he walked the walk and talked the talk," says Madagascar co-star Cedric the Entertainer, who describes Mac as his "comic mentor."

"He was funny and great at doing it so that's going to be the biggest loss right there."
Madagascar co-star Cedric the Entertainer

"He was funny and great at doing it so that's going to be the biggest loss right there."

"I knew Bernie Mac twenty years," adds Chris Rock, who met his Madagascar co-star struggling as a young comedian.

Having begun his career telling jokes for change in the Chicago subway, Mac eventually hosted his own respected weekly comedy show at the Regal Theatre.

"He was always the ambassador of Chicago, like the best guy."

"It's sad that he's not here (doing interviews) today; it's just sad because he'd be the funniest guy here," said Rock.

Indeed, Mac is one of the most hilarious aspects of the new Madagascar comedy.

But he also provides a surprisingly touching vocal performance, one that perhaps exemplifies the man's true spirit of life.

Sherri Shepherd, who voices Mac's lioness wife in the movie, might best sum up Mac's personal legacy.

She said she remembers a wildly funny man with a consideration beyond expectation.

Having previously worked with him, she remembers Mac voluntarily spending an hour entertaining bored extras at 3 a.m. on the set of his 2005 film Guess Who?

"That is the Bernie Mac that I remember and I was so honored to have worked with him," she said.

Soderbergh oversees true-life mob thriller

Steven Soderbergh is executive-producing a movie based on the true story of an FBI undercover agent who nearly became a made man in the mob.

Making Jack Falcone is based on a memoir of the same name published last month. After a barrage of publicity that included a "60 Minutes" segment, it has landed on the New York Times extended best-seller list.

The Simon & Schuster/Touchstone tome tells the story of Joaquin "Jack" Garcia, also known as Jack Falcone, a Cuban-American FBI agent who successfully went undercover in the Gambino crime family.

Garcia, now retired, came close to becoming the first FBI agent to be officially inducted into the mob, but his handlers pulled him off the case when they feared he had been compromised.

Falcone assumed a host of aliases from New York to Miami, and his ability to shape-shift between Sicilian, Cuban and other ethnicities is expected to provide red meat to an actor adept at assuming different identities. Prospective stars might also need to approximate Falcone's six-foot-four, 300-pound frame.

The Paramount Pictures project will be written by Peter Buchman, who previously collaborated with Soderbergh on the ambitious revolutionary saga "Che," which will soon be released by IFC Films. Soderbergh is said to be on board to read drafts of the script and offer other guidance on the project.

REUTERS

Coming up

- Paramount has several mob and undercover projects in development, including an undercover prison tale to be penned by William Monahan, the writer of "The Departed."

Entertainment in brief

MUSIC Soul icon Lionel Richie has recruited R&B singer Akon and rapper Ne-Yo for his upcoming studio album. Just Go is due out on Feb. 17 via Island. The first single, Good Morning, has just been sent to urban adult-contemporary radio stations. Both Akon and Ne-Yo share writing credits with Richie on the follow-up to 2006's Coming Home which has sold 444,000 copies in the U.S. Richie will perform tonight on ABC's Dancing With the Stars and Dec. 31 on Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve. A world tour begins March 13 in Dublin.

REUTERS

Hard rock guitarist finds power in soft words

ROB MCMAHON
for Metro Canada

Tom Morello's Nightwatchman project bridges generations, both on record and backstage.

After playing with Rage Against the Machine, the guitarist is hanging out with older folk heroes like Billy Bragg, Steve Earle, and Shooter Jennings. Morello said those softer-sounding—but no less powerful—musicians taught him how to connect to an audience without the benefit of a loud rock band or radio hits.

Tom Morello plays the Commodore Ballroom tonight.

"When I was touring with Billy Bragg, the audience had no idea who I was, and their average age was 50. It was a real challenge—to them, I was just another guy on the bill."

Known for his innovative guitar work and progressive politics, the Nightwatchman Morello works to capture the spirit of folk music on softer, singalong tracks like Whatever It Takes and Gone Like Rain. Dressed in a black cap, shirt, jeans and boots, he uses religious imagery and acoustic instruments to build solidarity among listeners.

"The first thing I always try to do with Rage, Audioslave, or the Nightwatchman, is to write a great song. But I also know a spoonful of sugar makes medicine go down—no one wants to listen to a college lecture set to music," he said. "The Clash, the Pogues, and Woody Guthrie—[those musicians] are all able to create solidarity in room with music…Music, when done right, feels like the truth."

After experiencing the energy of 80,000 people shouting politically-powered lyrics with Rage Against the Machine, Morello understands the power of musical catharsis. But Morello's songs blend stories of everyday struggles with religious allegories inspired by liberal theologians like Bishop Desmond Tutu. This choice of material is an interesting one, given the knee-jerk connection some fans may make between Christianity and right-wing politics.

"Nightwatchman is a more intimate connection…It's definitely a darker part of psyche and soul—definitely a part of me that believes in retribution," he said.

"I was raised Catholic, and went to mass every Sunday,"he said. "I felt a resonance with the stories... and how they relate to social justice."

Allen sued over Wild Hogs
Actor Tim Allen is facing legal action over his 2007 movie Wild Hogs. A Florida-based production company is accusing him of stealing their idea. **IMDB.COM**

Punk and metal on tattoo tour

MUSIC Punk veterans Social Distortion and metal legends Motorhead will headline a travelling festival created by popular tattoo artist Kat Von D.

An official itinerary is still in the works for the 25-city Musink Tattoo and Music Festival; it begins Jan. 30 in San Francisco and is expected to wrap up March 15 in Los Angeles. Additional acts will be announced in the coming weeks.

The festival will host a number of other tattoo artists from around the world. **REUTERS**

Vaugier returns to CSI: NY

Actress recently placed fifth on magazine's list of 'sexiest women'

Vancouver-born vixen **Emmanuelle Vaugier** will soon return for her third season on CSI: NY, reprising her role as Det. **Jessica Angell** in upcoming episodes. The Los Angeles transplant, who placed fifth on Femme Fatales magazine's "50 Sexiest Women on the Planet" list and is often recognized for her role as Mia on **Two And A Half Men**, also recently finished filming **Dolan's Cadillac** — the film adaptation of **Stephen King**'s short story — with **Christian Slater** and **Wes Bentley.**

Veteran director **Bobby Roth**, the man behind shows such as **Prison Break**, **Without a Trace** and **Criminal Minds**, will be in town Monday as filming commences for the Canwest-commissioned pilot of a show called **Shattered**, about the hopes and dreams of **John McCain** after losing to **Barack Obama**. No, that's a lie. According to Playback Daily, the drama will be about "a reclusive cop who uses his multiple personality disorder to solve crimes." (Side note: This was written before election results were made final. Here's to hoping Obama won, for the sake of the column and the well-being of the free world.)

Emmanuelle Vaugier

Cory Monteith

HollywoodNorth

Andrea Woo
andrea.woo@metronews.ca

RANDOM ROUNDUP: Vancouver-based actor **Cory Monteith** will star in the pilot for **Glee**, an hour-long comedy by **Nip/Tuck** creator **Ryan Murphy** about high school glee clubs; **Halle Berry,** in town filming her psychological drama **Frankie and Alice**, was spotted on-set wearing a mini-skirt, cropped leopard-print jacket and respectable afro; **Ryan Reynolds** finished the 26-mile New York City Marathon in an impressive three hours and 50 minutes.

Andrea Woo is a Vancouver-based news and entertainment reporter.

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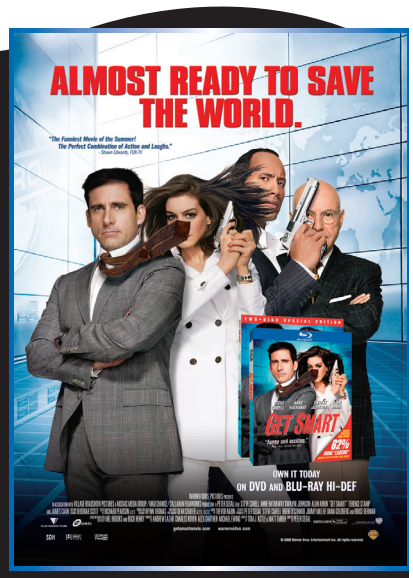

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Canada
Games of La Francophonie
Lebanon 2009

The Canadian delegation at the Games of La Francophonie is made up of three distinct teams: Canada, Canada-Quebec and Canada-New Brunswick. Professional artists under 35 years of age as of September 27, 2009, have a Canadian citizenship and are interested in representing **Team Canada** in the cultural competitions, should register now.

Artists Wanted

to represent Canada in the

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from September 27 to October 6, 2009

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November 24, 2008 is the deadline to submit an application.

Information:

Team Canada at the
VI Games of La Francophonie—
Cultural component
P.O. Box 6003
CSP Aylmer East
375 Aylmer Road
Gatineau, QC J9H 0A4
Tel. (toll-free): 1-866-955-2009
E-mail: info@francophonie2009.ca
Website: www.pch.gc.ca/francophonie2009

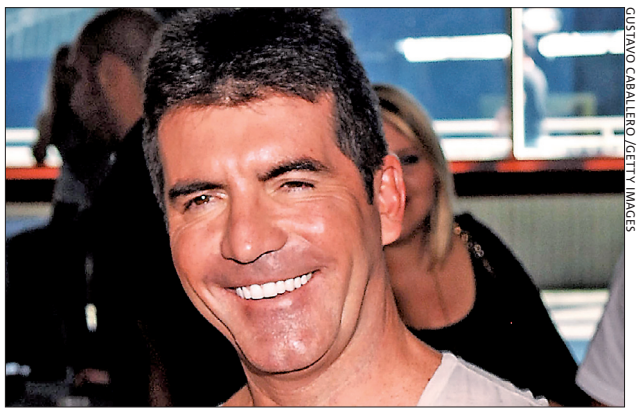
Canada

Creative differences
Co-executive producers and writers for the show Heroes — starring Hayden Panettiere — Jesse Alexander and Jeph Loeb, who have been with the show since its 2006 inception, have been fired due to creative differences, Variety reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Elegantly simple success

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca



GUSTAVO CABALLERO/GETTY IMAGES

Simon Cowell is a common sort of man, and a lightweight by the standards of the journalistic elite.

SIMPLE SIMON: No one apparently finds Simon Cowell as fascinating as Simon Cowell, but a close second would be his fellow Brits, who regularly publish long, lavishly-illustrated interviews such as the one that ran this weekend in the U.K. Daily Mail tabloid.

On this side of the Atlantic he's famous, and gets the recommended quota of press due to anyone truly successful, but he isn't taken nearly as seriously, probably because he's a) apparently just some guy who tells people they suck on a singing contest, or at least that's what he looks like to most Canadians and Americans, and b) English, and therefore over here just to give us an example of how to be really blunt, even rude, but still sound remarkably erudite in the process (see Ramsay, Gordon; Osbourne, Sharon; Morgan, Piers.)

(And yes, I'm trying my level best not to say anything about the U.S. presidential election, writing this as I am on the day the country is going to the polls. I've had enough, and would love to avoid the topic for as long as the candidates have been on the campaign trail, which seems like a couple of years by now.)

"On the surface, it's very hard to take the man seriously," the Mail writes, doing their best to mimic bewilderment.

"Like a latter-day Peter Stringfellow or Tony Curtis, he happily admits he never went to university, prefers the tabloids to the broadsheets and would rather have a night out with a Page Three girl than a media dinner at The Ivy."

Translated from British to English, that means he's a common sort of man, and a lightweight by the standards of the journalistic elite, but that probably accounts for why Cowell, a character of no real pronounced tastes except for flash cars, has become rich anticipating the tastes of the broadest number of people, and not the smallest, despite their risible claims to tastemaker status. He's made his fortune twice over in music, but never listens to it in his spare time. "I wish I could have signed the Beatles," he told the Mail, "but not for the music. I wish I'd signed them for the royalties."

Friend and boy band manager Louis Walsh despairs that Cowell has never turned on the fully-loaded iPod he bought him as a present, but I'd venture that taste and enthusiasm would be a liability when you're trying to mine and manufacture the sort of music that more than half the population will not only tolerate but purchase. You can't argue with success, but in Cowell's case, you can pretend to be confounded by it, in spite of the elegantly simple logic that made it possible.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

In brief

COURTS Two surfers pleaded innocent Monday to charges they attacked a paparazzo taking pictures of actor Matthew McConaughy on a beach. **REUTERS**

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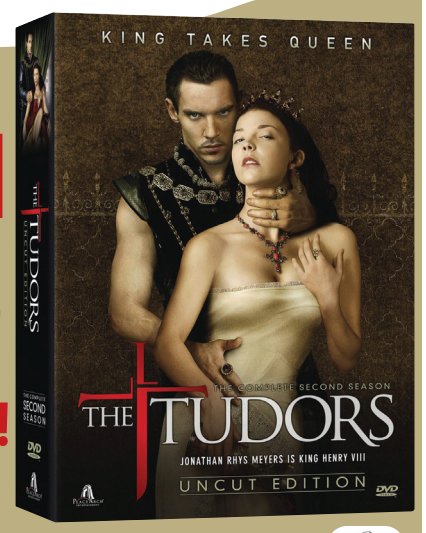

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metro Do it daily.

24 returns after nearly two years

TELEVISION Fox will premiere the first new regular episode of 24 in nearly two years on Sunday, Jan. 11, the network said Monday. The seventh season of the real-time thriller will kick off with a two-hour episode, followed by another two-hour segment the next night. Fox used a similar rollout plan for 2007's sixth season premiere in January 2007. A two-hour prequel movie 24: Redemption will give viewers a head start on the season when it airs on Sunday, Nov. 23. **REUTERS**

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VA	Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/5/08	251	308	3	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: the fifth estate		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6	JOY	E! News	The Insider	Knight Rider (N) (CC)		Deal or No Deal (CC)		True Hollywood Story (CC)		News (N)
	254	-	8	M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Mandarin News		Cantonese News (N)		Punjabi News (In Punjabi N)		Metropia
	250	321	9	CTV	etalk (CC)	Hollywood	Dancing With the Stars (CC)		You Can Dance		CSI: NY "Enough" (N) (CC)		News (N)
	-	-	10	OMNI	Scrubs (CC)	According-Jim	The Practice "First Degree"		Third Watch (CC)		The Daily	Diya (CC)	New Day
	252	336	11	GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Bones (N) (PA) (CC)		Life "Jackpot" (N) (CC)		The Guard "Zero Footprint"		News (N)
	256	389	12	VI	Robson Arms	TMZ (N) (CC)	America's Next Top Model (N)		(:02) Private Practice (N)		(:02) Dirty Sexy Money (N)		News (CC)
	253	359	13	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Secret Life of American Teen		Stylista (N) (CC)		I Love Money (CC)		EP Daily
	-	-	14	CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	America's Next Top Model (N)		Stylista (N) (CC)		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15	CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N) (CC)		CSI: NY "Enough" (N) (CC)		News (N)
	287	379	16	NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	Knight Rider (N) (CC)		Life "Jackpot" (N) (CC)		Law & Order "Rumble" (CC)		News (N)
	602	568	19	W	Will & Grace	Friends (CC)	Grocery	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny		She's Got the Look		Style by Jury
	288	380	21	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dancing With the Stars (CC)		(:02) Private Practice (N)		(:02) Dirty Sexy Money (N)		News (N)
	-	-	23	KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	Blazing Saddles ★★★ (1974) Cleavon Little, Gene Wilder.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27	PBS	Steves Europe	Wings-Canada	Secrets of the Dead		Medal of Honor (N) (CC)			Alzheimer's	Rich Forever
	290	382	28	FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones (N) (PA) (CC)		House (CC)		News (N) (CC)		Family Guy
	-	364	43	PBS	Medal of Honor (N) (CC)			Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Secrets of the Dead	
	296	654	64	SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	The Insider	Entertainment	Paid Program
	298	653	65	TLA	Two/Half Men	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers at Los Angeles Lakers. (Live) (CC)					KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66	WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Will & Grace	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67	WPX	CW11 News at Ten (N) (CC)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	Will & Grace	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76	STR	News (N)	News		Late Show-Letterman		(:37) Kitchen Nightmares		Late Late Show	
news	502	390	26	NW	Monarchy: The Royal Family		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		Monarchy: The Royal Family		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22	RSP	World Combat League (CC)		Hockey	Canucks TV	The Ultimate Fighter		Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30	TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			In This Corner	UEFA Champions League Soccer Teams TBA. (CC)				SportsCentre
	411	457	49	OLN	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides "Tuscany" (CC)		Don't Forget Your Passport		Ed's Up (CC)	Adventures	Word Travels
	410	403	54	SCR	Score Tonight		Hardcore Hockey Talk		Final Score	Final Score	Sports Rage		Final Score
	417	406	55	SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Out	Wrecked
	416	409	144	GLF	Fútbol Español		Gol TV News		Art of Football	Art of Football	Paid Program	Kings Club	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Imp.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline	Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50	TEL	George	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	V for Vendetta ★★★ (2006) Natalie Portman.		
	557	541	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	56	TRE	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie	Beren. Bears	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Dora-Explorer	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5	KNO	Into the Wild	Meerkat	Rolando Villazón		Anna Netrebko and Rolando Villazón in Paris Love duets.				Montreal Jazz
	575	583	20	CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Ult. Coyote Ugly Search		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24	MM	Video on Trial	Video on Trial	disBand	Technical Diff.	Punk'd (CC)	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Born to Be	Spotlight
	600	564	29	H&G	Million Dollar Listing (CC)		Holmes on Homes (CC)		Mansions	The Stagers	Property	Unsellable	$1M Listing
	615	520	31	A&E	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Parking Wars
	628	584	32	SPKE	The Ultimate Fighter (N)		The Ultimate Fighter		CSI: NY "Past Imperfect"		Star Trek: Voyager "Tattoo"		Deep Space 9
	521	560	34	TLC	Kids by the Dozen (CC)		Jon & Kate Plus 8 (CC)		Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Kids by the Dozen (CC)		Jon & Kate
	616	522	39	SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County (CC)		Billable Hours	G-Spot (CC)	The Starter Wife (CC)		House (CC)
	620	523	40	BVO	Arts & Minds	The Achievers	Law & Order "Disciple" (CC)		Without a Trace (CC)		Wit ★★★ (2001) Emma Thompson. (CC)		
	601	562	41	SLC	Real Housewives of NYC		Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out "No Pain, No Gain"		Real Housewives of NYC		Trading Sp
	520	505	42	DIS	Mayday (CC)		Daily Planet (CC)		MythBusters (CC)		Cash Cab	Destroyed	Mayday (CC)
	522	506	44	HIS	NCIS "Lt. Jane Doe" (CC)		Cities of the Underworld		The Real James Bond (CC)		NCIS "Lt. Jane Doe" (CC)		Crime Stories
	627	528	45	SPC	Ghost Hunters International		Stargate SG-1 "The Shroud"		Lost "The 23rd Psalm" (CC)		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Star Trek
	294	650	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Seinfeld	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	National Lampoon's European Vacation ★★ (1985) (CC)			
	619	525	48	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210 (CC)		Reality	What	Family Guy	Seinfeld	'70s Show		Family Guy
	603	561	52	FN	Dinner	Dinner	Restaurant Makeover (CC)		Challenge "Princess Cakes"		Iron Chef America		Dinner
	626	547	57	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs (CC)		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Inc.	RENO 911!	Daily Show
	320	621	60	CEN	One Missed Call ★ (2008) Ed Burns (CC)			Kaw	True Blood "Plaisir D'Amour"		Dexter (CC)		Alpha Dog
	581	566	101	MTV	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live	After	Man and Wife	Super Sweet	Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	261	394	102	V	Enigma (CC)		Hope Island (CC)		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Darling Buds of May (CC)		Paid Program
	-	-	109	MUL	Matchmaker	Mom's-Upset	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Hola Que Tal		Patrol World

critics' corner

Private Practice
Friendship takes center stage in this new episode as a friend of Violet's (Amy Brenneman) places her in the unenviable position of chooosing between her medical ethics code and her friendship. Meanwhile, in an effort to save the business and simultaneously her friendship with Naomi (Audra McDonald), Addison (Kate Walsh) decides to take a position of leadership at the practice in "Let It Go." Ming-Na guest stars. 9:02 PM on ABC VI

The New Adventures of Old Christine
Doesn't everyone bring his or her ex along on a date? In this new episode, Christine (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) invites Richard (Clark Gregg) along when she goes out to dinner with her new beau, Patrick (guest star Tim DeKay). Hmmm, maybe she wants to show Richard how much better she can do? Hamish Linklater and Emily Rutherfurd also star in "So You Think You Can Date." 8 PM on CBS

Actor Connolly goes behind camera
Entourage star and budding director Kevin Connolly has signed on to direct a music video for the Game and Ne-Yo for the song Camera Phone. **PEOPLE.COM**

Celebrity Buzz

Winslet shoots down airbrushing rumour

IMAGE Actress Kate Winslet has denied she resorted to airbrushing to sweep away excess pounds for a sexy new photoshoot, imdb.com reports.

Winslet posed for a Catherine Deneuve-inspired shoot for Vanity Fair magazine on a couch, wearing nothing but stockings, high heels and a fur throw.

Winslet's figure has drawn accusations that the pictures were digitally altered to remove her famous curves. But a spokesman for the star is adamant that the photos are genuine, attributing Winslet's new look to her healthy regime.

"There's been absolutely no airbrushing at all. All she has had is the standard retouching they do on any photoshoot, adjusting skin tone and so on. I know she is thrilled with the photos. She's in very good shape at the moment," the representative tells British newspaper the Independent.

Winslet slammed editors at British GQ magazine in 2003 for airbrushing her figure, accusing them of making her look like she was"six feet tall and a size 2."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Carrie soothes Simpson's fears

RELATIONSHIPS Carrie Underwood has a message for fellow singer Jessica Simpson: She and ex Tony Romo have not spoken in months, People.com reports.

"I haven't talked to him since, like, May," Underwood, 25, tells Elle in its December issue.

"It was just something that was said in passing," the country singer says, referring to an interview in which she said Romo still called her. "I would never mean to say anything to hurt anybody or to stir up anything because I'm just not about drama — at all."

As for reports that Simpson was upset by the claims, Underwood says, "I might be mad too if somebody said my boyfriend was calling some other girl. So I can definitely see where (she) would be coming from."

Asked about her current dating life, Underwood emphatically shot down rumours that she dated Olympian Michael Phelps.

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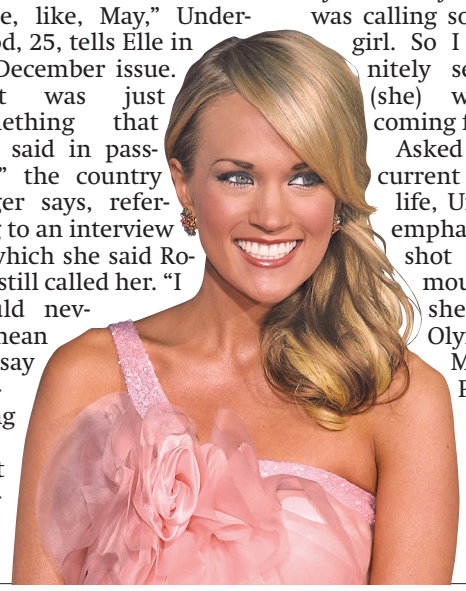

celebrity brief

Jada fought for her hippo's life

ROLE Actress Jada Pinkett Smith only agreed to voice a hippo in the new Madagascar movie when filmmakers reportedly promised her character wouldn't die, imdb.com reports. Pinkett Smith leaped at the chance to play seductive hippo Gloria in Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa when she found out she wouldn't be killed off before the credits rolled.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Bachelorette calls off engagement

SPLIT The wedding is off. The Bachelorette stars DeAnna Pappas and Jesse Csincsak have ended their relationship, Csincsak says on the couple's website, People.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Kidman says birth was actually easy

FAMILY Actress Nicole Kidman was terrified of giving birth to her daughter Sunday, but was pleasantly surprised to find the experience "easy," imdb.com reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

FameThrower

Joe O'Neill

Joe's take on celebrities

There's good news if your doctor has told you to get more eyeball exercise. That vast repository of lies and Botox, **Nicole Kidman**, continues to challenge **Angelina Jolie** as the celebrity most likely to say things that make them roll. In fact, there is a rumour in Hollywood that every time someone tells a lie, **Nicole Kidman** gets a royalty.

Kidman says she was expecting childbirth to be a 40-hour ordeal, or roughly half the length of what The Golden Compass felt like to watch, but since she had her hubby, the ironically named country singer **Keith Urban**, as her 'rock,' and since he has a magical ability to endow her with strength using only his eyes, it was nothing. Given that **Kidman** was once married to **Tom Cruise**, I don't question her ability to gauge pain, and looking at pictures of her forehead, I think she is an excellent judge of rocks, but where this story falls down for me is the idea that she would even consider enduring pain greater than that entailed in an eyebrow tweeze, unless there was an Oscar nomination in it for her.

The truth is probably that the child was born by C-section while **Nicole** was under full anesthetic, lying on a bed of liquid honey.

NEWSDESK@METRONEWS.CA

celebrity brief

Victoria snubs Mel B.'s invite

VOWS Victoria Beckham has reportedly snubbed an invitation to fellow former Spice Girl Mel Brown's wedding, femalefirst.co.uk reports. Brown is renewing her vows with her film producer husband Stephen Belafonte in a four-day ceremony in Egypt this week.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

celebrity brief

Men use me for fame, Paris says

RELATIONSHIPS "Every other guy I've been out with has used me for money or sex — but in most cases they just want fame. It made it hard to trust people." That's Paris Hilton, talking to Britain's News of the World as she promotes the U.K. version of her BFF series, MSN Entertaiment reports.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ex may want Jen back

RELATIONSHIPS Jennifer Aniston's ex-fiance Tate Donovan has been phoning the actress to tell her she was the "love of his life," femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress, who recently rekindled her relationship with singer John Mayer, is said to be considering giving her relationship with Donovan a second chance.

"Jennifer cannot believe it. A few months ago she was single and heartbroken, and now she has got two men professing their love for her," said a source close to Anistson, who split from Donovan in 1995 after three years of dating.

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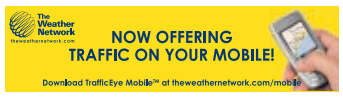
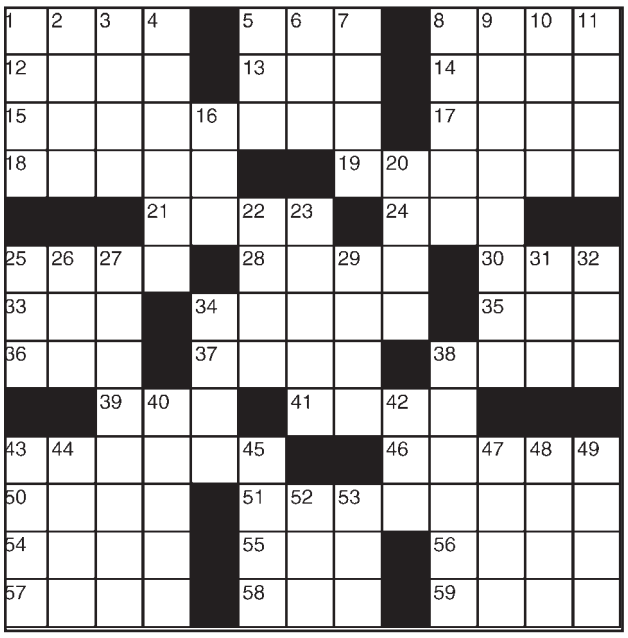
Today
Partly cloudy
9° / 5°

Thursday
Rain
11° / 10°
80%

Friday
Rain
12° / 10°
80%



Take Five



Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	4	1				2		
			6	5				1
9					8			7
		3	2		7		8	
	8			4			7	
	1		3		9	5		
1			8					6
5				9	6			
		2				4	3	

Crossword across

1 Lysol target
5 Rage
8 Dreary
12 Finished
13 Rotation duration
14 Mature
15 Steer
17 Small bit
18 Martini garnish
19 Perceive intuitively
21 Grounded flock
24 Cribbage scorer
25 Related
28 Droops
30 Tray contents
33 Neither partner
34 Dessert there's "always room for"
35 Ball prop
36 Melody
37 Gaelic
38 Smile broadly
39 Hockey surface
41 Initial chip
43 "African Queen" star
46 Nixon's veep
50 Verve
51 Bind legally
54 Baptism, e.g.
55 Halloween call
56 Hebrew month
57 Leaves
58 Deviate off course
59 Assessment

Crossword down

1 "Kissing disease"
2 Ellipse
3 Jeans-maker Strauss
4 Compelled
5 Mrs. McKinley
6 Snitch
7 Ogled
8 Somber
9 Battle in court
10 "Once — atime ..."
11 Fast-spreading concept
16 Jewel
20 Facto preceder
22 Addict
23 Tortilla topping
25 Literary collection
26 Japanese pond carp
27 Water
29 Secluded valley
31 Vast expanse
32 Height of fashion
34 Scoff (at)
38 Panhandler
40 Some Christmas candy
42 Skater Babilonia
43 Titanic's downfall
44 Hodgepodge
45 Sir — Belch, of "Twelfth Night"
47 Zilch, south of the border
48 Coup d'—
49 Existed
52 Feathery neckwear
53 Depressed

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

D	A	M	P	■	J	O	B	■	H	A	G	S
O	B	O	E	■	A	N	I	■	A	R	E	A
C	A	B	E	R	N	E	T	■	R	A	N	I
■	■	■	W	O	E	■	B	I	B	B	E	D
D	A	V	E	N	■	P	Y	R	O	■	■	■
I	S	E	E	■	C	A	B	A	R	E	T	S
S	I	R	■	B	R	U	I	N	■	P	I	P
C	A	B	A	L	I	S	T	■	S	I	L	O
■	■	■	R	I	T	E	■	F	A	C	E	T
S	C	A	M	P	I	■	O	A	F	■	■	■
T	O	G	A	■	C	A	B	B	A	G	E	S
E	K	E	D	■	A	L	I	■	R	I	L	L
M	E	S	A	■	L	E	T	■	I	N	K	Y

8	1	9	2	7	5	3	4	6
6	2	7	3	8	4	1	5	9
3	5	4	9	6	1	8	2	7
4	6	5	8	3	2	9	7	1
2	7	3	1	5	9	6	8	4
9	8	1	7	4	6	5	3	2
1	4	6	5	2	3	7	9	8
5	9	8	4	1	7	2	6	3
7	3	2	6	9	8	4	1	5

SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Recipe of the day

Penne with sugar snaps and smoked salmon

INGREDIENTS:

12 oz (375 g) penne or ziti pasta
1 lb (500 g) sugar snap peas, strings removed
1/3 cup (75 mL) snipped fresh dill
3 scallions, thinly sliced
3/4 cup (175 mL) chicken broth
3 tbsp (45 mL) reduced-fat sour cream
1 tbsp (15 mL) unsalted butter
1 tsp (5 mL) grated lemon zest
2 tbsp (25 mL) lemon juice
1/2 tsp (2 mL) salt
4 oz (125 g) smoked salmon, slivered

METHOD:

1. In large pot of boiling water, cook pasta according to package directions until firm-tender. Add sugar snaps to water during final 1 minute of cooking; drain.
2. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine dill, scallions, broth, sour cream, butter, lemon zest, lemon juice and salt. Add hot pasta and sugar snaps, tossing well. Add smoked salmon and toss again.

PER SERVING:

450 calories, 7 g fat, 4 g saturated fat, 850 mg sodium, 75 g carbohydrate, 21 g protein.

SERVES 4

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
See a specialist if a head problem persists. Your closest friend knows your deepest feelings. Expect a surprising change involving social plans.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Food bills are getting out of hand. Demand that paperwork be shown to authority figures. A trusted friend decides to let work wait.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Sabotage is commented upon. A disheartening discussion causes a critical washout. An acquaintance reconciles unrelenting combatants.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Someone starts a family quarrel. A secret note will overcome someone's pride. A reality check creates a tripping hazard.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A moody person will cause you to refuse to take sides. Romantic risks will increase late at night. A woman gets back to work.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Avoid meddling by breathing deeply. Back away from overwhelming emotions. You'll want to withdraw after a zesty encounter.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You may not appreciate a peak experience. Someone is secretly in financial trouble. Use your ability to lead others to greater clarity.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Anxiety will affect your love life. A reward seems beyond your reach. Try not to confront a wild and crazy guy.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Harsh things will be said about a superior person. Love takes you on a wild ride. A youth will continue to baffle a sceptic.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
There's good and bad news in legal matters. An ambitious coworker should be taken seriously. Don't get caught helping a cruel person.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Premonitions continue throughout day. A friend wants to play with you. A man will have an earth-shaking dream.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Indecision fades when you heed sound advice. A higher level of consciousness is found. Playing by the rules eliminates confusion.

WORDY GURDY®

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE

Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. "Hold your horses, Aussie chum!" (1)
2. Escargot path (1)
3. Untidy Olympian Owens (2)
4. Oscar-winning Hilary's army levels (1)
5. Toast spread severer (2)
6. O-ring holder, as for Easter eggs (2)
7. Firmly fixed and stable big beer mug (2)

ANSWERS
1. WAIT MATE 2. SNAIL TRAIL 3. MESSY JESSE 4. SWANKS RANKS
5. BUTTER CUTTER 6. GASKET BASKET 7. ANCHORED TANKARD

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This day in history

NOV. 5, 1743: Coordinated scientific observations of the transit of Mercury were organized by Joseph-Nicolas Delisle.
NOV. 5, 1872: Women's suffrage: In defiance of the law, suffragist Susan B. Anthony votes for the first time, and is later fined $100.
NOV. 5, 1895: George B. Selden is granted the first U.S. patent for an automobile
NOV. 5, 1945: Colombia joins the United Nations.
NOV. 5, 1995: André Dallaire attempts to assassinate Jean Chrétien; he is thwarted when the Prime Minister's wife locks the door.

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